



Volume 6, Number 1, February-March, 1988

Should Men Be Put On The Mailing List?

Below are some comments from readers about this important question. We need to hear from more women before we decide what to do. Please read these responses, think about them, then write us and tell us what you think. Each woman who writes in will make our decision more representative of everyone in the network. Due to space limitations not all responses are being printed. However, please rest assured that all are being brought to the attention of the Coordinating Committee.

Thanks,
The Editors

continued on page 5

Poetry

I dreamed we were back together.
My laughter woke me up.
I searched frantically all around me,
My eyes full of tears.

ANONYMOUS

I hold your head tight
Between my thighs and press
Against your mouth and
Float away forever in
An orchid boat
On the River of Heaven.

MARICHIKO

continued on page 6

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

B.B.W.N., P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA, 02140



Notes From All Over:



The March on Washington was a spectacular coming-out party for me. A couple of weeks before the march, my lover, who currently lives in the Boston area where there is a large, active bisexual movement, sent me a flier about the bisexual contingent in the march. I called for more information, and one of the organizers told me the contingent gathering would be preceded by an organizational meeting to form a national bisexual network.

Although I'm sorry I missed my chance to walk with the Rochester contingent, I'm extremely glad I joined the bisexual group before and during the march. I met out-of-the closet bisexuals from around the country, and I'm staying in touch with some of these new acquaintances. I had a wonderful conversation about coming-out and relationship issues with a friend and former co-worker.

But most importantly, I felt, for the first time, proud to be bisexual. There was a great sense of community in the contingent.

That community spirit made me realize how isolated I've felt. I can count on one hand the number of people I know in Rochester who identify themselves as bisexuals. I find it ironic that I had to go to Washington, D.C., to meet other bisexuals from Rochester, but the atmosphere that weekend made it easier for people to come out of all of their closets.

The bisexual movement is in its infancy; the Oct. 11 meeting was the first attempt at organizing a national network of local groups. During the weekend, I became more and more convinced that a movement is needed. I wore my "Bisexual Pride" button my last three days in Washington, and several people read it and said things like, "I was going to march with that group, but..." and, "I've thought about trying to start a group or something in Rochester, but it's considered sort of taboo..."

Many bisexuals have for years been doing valuable work within the gay and lesbian community, but have not publicly identified themselves as bisexuals for fear of the community's rejection. I saw some evidence of that rejection in Washington. The most glaring example was an MC at the post-march rally who addressed her audience as "Men and women, gay and straight, and the confused remainder."

About 10 members of the bisexual contingent went off to the outskirts of the crowd to prepare a public statement that objected to the MC's characterization of anyone who was not gay or heterosexual as "confused." I joined the statement-writers, and although I didn't contribute, I listened closely, and I learned a lot. The most important thing I realized is that I can never again sit silently and let gays call me confused or straight, or let heterosexuals call me gay or queer. I realized the march slogan, "For love and for life, we're not going back," applies to me too.

- Michele Moore,
Editor,
The Empty Closet
(New York state's
oldest gay
newspaper)
Reprinted with
permission
from issue
#187, Nov. '87



NEWSFLASH: FROM: LORAIN HUTCINS

RE: BISEXUAL WOMEN'S ANTHOLOGY BOOK

Dec. 1987: Just returned from San Francisco where LANI KAAHUMANU and I met with a member of a publishing company. They are interested in Lani and I editing a book on the experiences of bisexual women. We have not signed a contract yet (which is why the name of the company is not yet being revealed, but look for formal announcement and call for submissions to be sent to your newsletter soon), but this hot tip is just to let you all be the first to know!

METRO BOSTON
WOMEN'S INSURANCE AGENCY

Helena Hantzes

69 Cedar Street
Somerville, MA 02143

(617) 628-8592





Dear Bi Women,

I have received and perused the latest newsletter and felt very inspired to write. First let me offer a great big thank you to Laura Sachs and Jean Kropper for co-editing yet another great issue of *Bi-Women*. You have both made such a contribution to the network through your efforts and I want y'all to know they have not gone unnoticed by this bi.

The inspiration for this letter began as early as last August with the Vol. 5, No. 4 newsletter. The cover photo brought out many feelings from within. First, a feeling of pride, especially after reading the statement Robyn wrote up for the Pride March Program. I think time for a bi speaker after the march has arrived. (Actually, is overdue!) Second, a feeling of sadness for having missed the march this June - the first one I have missed since BBWN forced me out of my 27 year cluttered up closet almost 5 years ago. Having helped with the banner last year, though, made me feel like a piece of me was there! And third a real thrill to see Laura Sachs given photo credit (a published photographer??). When Laura joined the network, a "flash" to her was just something dirty old men did in trench coats. Now she can be seen "flashing while flashing" at retreats in New Hampshire. (My pics will be organized soon Laura!!!)

I would like to take a little time here to express my sincerest thanks and tightest hugs to y'all for helping me through what has been a very difficult year both physically and emotionally. Huge warm fuzzies go out to Lisa, Charnan, Laura, Nancy, Laura, Robyn, Blake (I miss you, dearie!), Mirta, Woody, Scott, Pepper and Alan, ad infinitum (I hope I didn't forget anyone!) for lugging me around or yourselves to get to me. Just knowing you all were out there helped the endless hours in bed (alone!!) go by more quickly as did the phone calls and degenerate cards.

BBWN for me is far from a name for an intangible group of faceless women. Each of you have helped me to grow, change, question myself and others, look within and without, rethink, relearn and unlearn nearly everything around me. I recently read that Linda Evans said she was

finally feeling good about herself, for she now feels that she can stand on her own two feet and live without a man in her life. My first reaction was "all those bucks and beauty and she couldn't buy what BBWN helps women feel, free". (This woman, anyway!)

Which brings me to the next issue. The word FREE! Rarely things of value are and this newsletter is no exception. I think my membership is paid up, but I have not yet received my cancelled check back. If y'all never received it, please let me know. I also hear your cry for help loud and clear and I hope my new found health will enable me to get reinvolved in the network more actively again. It's nice to see the new names on the honor roll and look forward to meeting some new women at the next CC.

-----Goodbi, Betty Aubut

P.S. For those who have been wondering about the "Let's Connect" project, you should have it soon. Thanks for your patience. Any one else wishing to know names of bi women in your area or wishing to connect with women about specific issues/interests in your life just drop a note and SASE to "LET'S CONNECT", c/o Betty Aubut, 115 Mt. Auburn St. #44, Cambridge, MA. 02138.

"Let's Connect" is a great idea. Let us use it! If for example, I want a companion to see French films with in Boston, to do white water kayaking, or to talk about working in advertising (hint, hint) I could do that here. I would list my name, address and phone number and the specific interest I wish to share. Then just send it to Betty and **ZOWIE!** I could meet fascinating Bi women who share my interests. Remember, the more women who use the service, the better it works!

-- Jean, Co-editor

P.S. or if, say, there are persons interested in, miniature golfing, or kite flying, or bowling or jazz, etc. --Laura, Co-editor

continued on page 7 & page 8



REASONS FOR ENDING BBWN MEMBERSHIP:

When women choose to end their membership with BBWN, we leave them room to say why. This is partially due to curiosity, and partially because we are interested in knowing if there are things we could be doing better. We have included some women's comments below for your own information.

-- The Editors

"I'm 100% hetero now."

- LW, New Paltz, NY

"You're doing a great job; I, however, no longer 'belong'."

- AR, Oxnard, CA

"Eastern groups are too far away and all seem to be much, much younger. Thanks anyway."

-CC, Rockford, IL

HONOR ROLL:

Special thanks to the following women for time and energy generously given to the BBWN during the months of November and December 1987:

Pat H.	Patty H.
Nadine D.	Nancy K.
Jackie S.	Laura S.
Ruth L.	Robyn O.
Pepper G.	Jean K.
Kim A.	Lisa W.
Marge L.	Kate H.
Ruth K.	Sharon G.

Treasurer's Report

Do not try to adjust your set. We are having technical difficulties. Please stay tuned to this same location. The Treasurer's Report will return, same BBWN time, same BBWN channel!

-- Laura

"But Grandpa, I am happy!"

The following is a conversation that really took place recently. It was between a certain (unmarried) granddaughter (GD) who was accompanied by her female lover (L), and her grandfather (GF). Every word of it is true. I swear.

GF: (pulling granddaughter aside)
Dear, I'm very worried about you.

GD: Why, Grandpa?

GF: Well, you see, I'm concerned that you're not happy.

GD: But Grandpa, I'm very happy.

GF: No, you just think that you're happy. I'm afraid that in ten years you're going to wake up and realize that you really haven't been happy all along, and that you're missing out on the most important things of life, and by then it will be too late.

GD: Well, grandpa, if it's just an illusion then it's a very good one, because I really do feel quite satisfied with my life.

GF: I don't think that's true.

GD: Well, we'll see.

And we will.

Later the same evening. Grandparents, granddaughter and her lover are sitting in a restaurant.

GF: (to Lover) So, what do you do?

L: I go to school and work.

GF: Oh, that's very nice. What kind of work do you do?

L: I'm working for a woman who's renovating a house.

GF: (Dubiously) Renovating a house? (Brightens up) Oh, that's wonderful! That way when you get married you and your husband can buy a house and renovate it together. How nice!

L: (Looking slightly nauseous) Hmm...



Continued from page 1

Should Men Be Put On The Mailing List?

"Keep it as it is. Great newsletter."
- LT, Highland Park NJ



"The policy of men subscribing would be fine with me, as long as women have editorial control and the focus of articles is about bisexuality and women. We need all the enlightenment we can get".

- EL, Dorchester MA

"It doesn't matter to me. Marc Twain said something about 'a girl was never spoiled by a book.'"

- RG, Hartford CT

I see no problem allowing men to receive Bi Women, as long as the policy remains that they will not influence content.

Pat R.
Sarasota, FL

Dear BBWN Friends:

About men receiving the newsletter:

The very nature of a printed newsletter is that it is, ultimately and inevitably, accessible to anyone. Only the unrecorded spoken word disappears into the air immediately: if the transmission stops with the original listeners, confidentiality may be maintained.

Let us write freely our thoughts, and achieve safety, if desired, by anonymity. Let us address those with whom we want to share: the membership of BBWN who are linked by this newsletter. Other subscribers and readers are not who we are talking to. If they wish to listen in, they will only gain a good measure of reality. What they do with it may be a curiosity to us: it may even have educational potential.

But their readership is not a threat to us. Protect ourselves with anonymity and let our thoughts freely flow, without fear or apology. "Undesirable" readers will always be able to gain access to the newsletter anyway. Should we exclude others who might someday have contributed to us as individuals, or to BBWN, or to the betterment of the world, in a futile effort to control?

I suggest we evolve our confidence in the validity of our thoughts and feelings. As bi's we know more than anyone that thoughts, feelings, and people are to be free, unoppressed and unoppressive, in our version of reality. Don't let fear inhibit our spirit, growth, and contributions toward our goals.

Sincerely,
A.W., Dixmont, ME



Dear BBWN,

Re: Men on the mailing list:

It's wrong to just flatly discriminate, as that's what WE (gay, bi, women, any race, \$, status) have been so angry about. Perhaps any man who wants to subscribe who has a subscriber vouch for him?; or who is linked w/an info network. It's real important our views are read as an educational resource. I don't mind any man reading my point of view, I don't want just any man commenting on it in publication. (i.e. please don't print men's letters)

Sincerely, R.M., Cambridge, MA

SHOULD MEN BE ON THE MAILING LIST?

Please read these responses, think about them, then write us and tell us what you think.

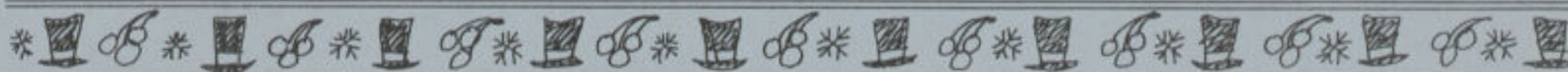
Thanks,
The Editors

Poetry

"Father and Daughter"

We walk along Broadway,
Each wrapped in our own concerns.
In your mind you've returned to work
After three years of disability
And half-listen as I chatter away.
At the railroad tracks you take my hand
As we cross the street--
To you, I'm a child,
Immature, unknowing.
To me, you are wise--but still unknowing.
And I don't know you.
(Do you put adhesive on your dentures?)
I don't often kiss you now.
I feel odd about hugging.
I'm aware that I'm a woman--
And you're a man--
And I feel afraid.

- Linda R. Collette



Come at last to this point
I look back on my passion
And realize that I
Have been like a blind man
Who is unafraid of the dark.

YOSANO AKIKO

A crow caws in the moonlight
I dread the coming dawn
For I have sent away my lover
In tears.

ANONYMOUS

From:

ONE HUNDRED MORE POEMS
FROM THE JAPANESE
KENNETH REXROTH



Poetry

XLVII

Well, I have lost you; and I lost you fairly;
In my own way, and with my full consent.
Say what you will, kings in a tumbrel rarely
Went to their deaths more proud than this one went.
Some nights of apprehension and hot weeping
I will confess; but that's permitted me;
Day dried my eyes; I was not one for keeping
Rubbed in a cage a wing that would be free.
If I had loved you less or played you slyly
I might have held you for a summer more,
But at the cost of words I value highly,
And no such summer as the one before.
Should I outlive this anguish—and men do—
I shall have only good to say of you.

— Edna St. Vincent Millet

*Happy
Valentine's
Day!*



You do not come
On this moonless night.
I wake wanting you.
My breasts heave and blaze.
My heart burns up.

ONO NO KOMACHI

I sleep alone,
On my tearstained pillow,
Like an abandoned boat,
Adrift on the sea.

ANONYMOUS



Bi Women

SUBSCRIPTIONS

To start a new subscription or renew
your current one, fill out the form
below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St./Zip: _____

___ New subscription

___ Renewal

Check one: ___ Low income (\$7)
___ Regular (\$14)
___ Sustaining (\$25-49)
___ Near Goddess (\$50 and up)

Note: Mailing list is confidential.

Moving? Please give us 4 weeks notice:

B.B.W.N.

P.O. Box 639, Cambridge MA 02140
(617) 247-6683.

SUPPORT YOUR NETWORK!



Readers' Forum cont. from page 3

Dear Editors,

I want to tell you and all the staff of the newsletter that I am very grateful for your efforts - the newsletter is getting better and better! I read on p. 8 of your most recent issue in Meeting Minutes that [redacted] is tired of putting the newsletter together. I sympathize with [redacted] (I'm a co-editor of a local group newsletter myself) but I want to tell you, [redacted], that in my opinion the August issue is the best yet, in layout, format, content - everything! So I'll just add my encouragement and pats to your back - keep up the good work and I hope you get some support staff soon! (I'd help myself but I live in Amherst.)

Enclosed you'll find my subscription renewal and a check for the March on Washington (oops, no, I'll send that to Liz Nania). I appreciate your full reportage of important issues (i.e. the Newsweek propaganda rag, marches, etc.) and will willingly support and participate whenever I can. Special hellos to Laura Sachs!!

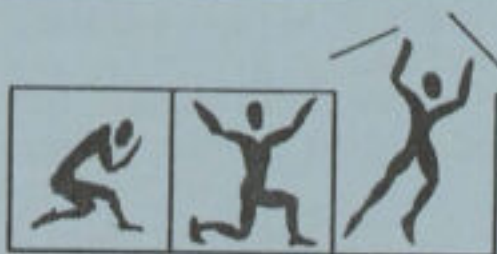


Yours sincerely,
Anne N., Amherst, MA



Dear Anne: Thanks a lot!! It feels GREAT to be appreciated. I'm so glad you wrote us.

Sincerely, [redacted]
P.S. SPECIAL HELLOS BACK!! LUV YA, LAURA
(sorry this took so long to make it in -J&L)



Marge Lee

Physical Therapist

at Contemporary Therapy, 222 Third St., Suite 3210
Cambridge, MA 02142

617.868.0220

TWO EVENINGS EVERY TWO MONTHS

is all we ask. We need help on the newsletter in any of a variety of ways: reading Bi newsletters worldwide for interesting snippets for ours, answering correspondence, choosing poetry and graphics to put in, putting Calendar together, writing up some current event, typing, and paste-up or assembly of the newsletter itself! We are getting much more organized which makes it all run smoother, but we do need your help. It's really rather fun to be part of, so do give us a call. Leave a message at BIS-MOVE for "Newsletter." Thanks a lot.

[redacted] & Laura

Newsletter Staff:

co-editors: Laura Sachs

Layout: [redacted]

Typists: Laura Sachs
Robyn Ochs
Betty Aubut

Calendar : Laura Sachs

contributors:

Robyn Ochs
Laura Sachs
[redacted]
Joanna Atlee
Michele Moore
Lorraine Hutchins
Betty Aubut
Jet Tenley
Laura G., Linda C.
Anne N.
L.K.B.
A.W.

Dear BBWN,

I was a trifle offended when I read the opening paragraph of Liz Nania's article - "U.S. Bi's Wow D.C.". Many of us in Seattle, as well as other parts of the country, would have loved to have been in the Bi-contingent in Washington D.C. It wasn't so much that we lack "courage", "conviction" or "guts". It was more a lack of funds, our jobs and other obligations, such as finding someone to watch my 3½ year old daughter for the time I would have been there. (Not to mention plane fare, sitter costs, etc.).

Not all bisexual people are single, care free, jobless or child free. As a founding member of the Seattle network, I worked hard to get the group started at a tremendous cost. So, please do not discount us as an uncaring group. All bisexuals, whether in or out of the closet, care and do what they can. All of us should be congratulated, supported and praised for whatever we do to promote bisexuality as an alternative lifestyle.

I am so thankful for your newsletter. It keeps me in touch with parts of the bi-community that I miss, due to lack of funds.

Keep up the great work.

Sincerely,

Jet Tenley, Seattle, WA

P.S. I came out to my 86 year old grandmother a couple of months ago. She was very accepting and supportive. It just goes to show you that in every generation there are open-minded people.

Dear Jet: Our headline, "U.S. Bi's Wow D.C." was true in that there were Bisexual people from all over the country in our contingent in the March on Washington. We missed you and were sorry you couldn't be there. We're sure Liz did not mean to imply that you or anyone else who couldn't be there were not just as gutsy or courageous. We acknowledge that there were many reasons (especially money) that people couldn't be in D.C., and appreciate that you reminded us that not all of us were privileged enough to be able to go. These reasons have nothing to do with an individual's courage about their Bisexuality. We agree that all of us should be congratulated and supported for whatever we do to present Bisexuality as a viable lifestyle. -- The Editors.

P.S. We called Liz and she agrees to all of the above and more!!

Dear BBWN Readers,

Have received your copies of BBWN and it's been a lifesaver for me!



It's a dark and dismal island here in Austin, TX. No resources for the Bi-Sexual culture in these parts! There's a good Gay and Lesbian population here... no one wants to admit their Bisexuality, though. (AIDS being the primary factor.) To the 3 other women besides myself who wrote to BBWN - sure would like to hear from you! Also, can anyone suggest additional reading material on this subject? Thanks for the great newsletter!!

Sincerely,

L.K.B.

P.O. Box 14136
Austin, TX 78761

Dear L.K.B., fret not, an impromptu bibliography is on it's way to you from me! Laura

Dear BBWN,

I need/want VERY MUCH to hear about or from anyone who has maintained a long term and open relationship. I knew that Barry Kohn died of AIDS. But not that he and Alice had been divorced! They did so much good hard work to continue together. They valued their relationship. In their book they didn't want to divorce! So what happened?

Loads of relationships end -- I need/want to hear from people in long-term continuing relationships - particularly from anyone who has decided to be monogamous whose partner is not - my current status. (It used to be the other way around...)

I miss BBWN/New England - but mostly am doing ok out here. Mail and visitors are welcome.

Love,

Dear BBWN organizers,

I came to your introductory meeting on Monday, Oct. 5th, and wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed it. What a diverse and honest group of women!

I was thrilled to find that the "support group" I first heard of from Newsweek's infamous article, is actually a network of over 900 women. There are a lot more of us bi women than I even realized!

Keep up your good work. Enclosed is my contribution, and I'll try to get involved as much as I can from Providence.

Sincerely,

Laura G., Providence, RI

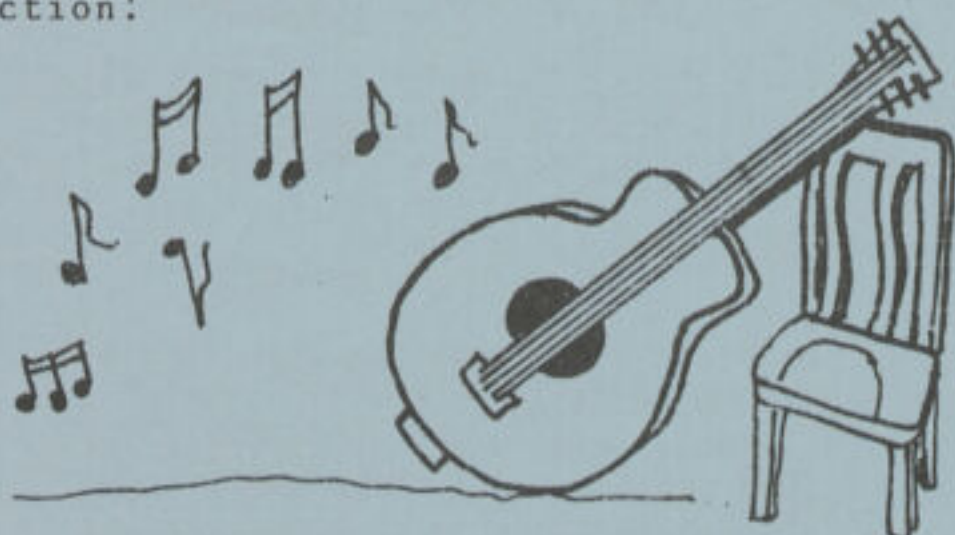
Dear Laura: We love getting any form of written contributions to the newsletter, so please don't let the fact that you live in Providence stop you from getting in touch with us!!! --Laura

BBWN welcomes **PAT HUMPHRIES** to Boston. Pat is a musician/guitarist/singer originally from the Midwest. Catch Pat at the following:

March 4 (Fri) **PAT HUMPHRIES OPENS FOR TONY BIRD, WATCH CITY COFFEE HOUSE** at the First Parrish Church, 50 Church St., Waltham, 8-10pm, open mike, \$5.00 admission, \$4.00 Students/Seniors, For more info call: 647-1055, 647-5569, 893-6240

March 11 (Fri) **PAT HUMPHRIES PERFORMS AT THE 2nd FRIDAY COFFEE HOUSE**, at the First Church in Belmont, 404 Concord Avenue, Belmont, 8:00pm, open mike, \$3.00 donation, Call 484-1054 for more info.

Watch for future listings in our Calendar section!



TELEPHONE (617) 498-9923

BET MACARTHUR, ACSW LICSW
COUNSELING, PSYCHOTHERAPY
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14 PLEASANT ST.
CENTRAL SQUARE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

SUPPORT GROUP FORMING:

Indeed! Join us! The third Thursday of each month 6:45-9:30pm, in Allston, MA. Personal sharing, group discussion, social events, and Network news. February 18's topic is: Bisexuals and Relationships. Single, married, in or out of relationships - all women welcome. Call 247-6683 and leave your name and number for Eileen; as always, discretion will be used.

ONGOING EVENTS:

Every Wednesday: 7:30pm, AL-ANON GROUP FOR BI-SEXUAL ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS. An Al-Anon meeting for Bisexual Adult Children of Alcoholics meetw Wednesday nights at Mass. General Hospital, lower amphitheater (next to emergency entrance). For more info & directions, Call Marge (617) 259-1559.

ROCK AGAINST SEXISM; UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

The second Sunday of every month R.A.S. will hold a Disc Party from 6-9pm at MAN-RAY, 21 Brookline St., in Cambridge, \$2-\$3 donation, everyone welcome, must be 21 or older to get in AND

The last Sunday of every month R.A.S. will hold a Disc Party/Tea Dance from 6-10pm at The 1270 CLUB, 1270 Boylston St., in Boston, Admission \$2, \$1 before 7:00pm, must be 21 to get in

Feb. 14, R.A.S. at MAN-RAY
Feb. 28, R.A.S. at The 1270
March 13, R.A.S. at MAN-RAY
March 27, R.A.S. at The 1270

These events feature non-sexist Rock n' Roll and dancing, as well as an alternative to the run-of-the-mill nightclub scene. Check it out!

Feb. 28, R.A.S. will be featuring lots of Rockin' International Women's music in honor of International Women's Day

March 27 R.A.S. presents: "Schlock Against Sexism" in honor of April Fool's Day, featuring some Schlock and Roll music.

RUNNING ARTS & FEMME CORE PRESENT: GIRLS PERFORM: WOMEN ON STAGE; (a series of women performers on stage and on film).

Feb. 12 (Fri) The Boston Premiere of SPLIT BRITCHES': BEAUTY AND THE BEAST at 10:00pm, feminist cross between Elizabethan prose and Marx Brothers lunacy.

Feb. 19 (Fri) JOSEPHINE BAKER: A LEGEND ON FILM, at 7:30 & 9:00pm Celebrating Black History Month, excerpts from Parisian stage acts as well as 1927 Film, SIREN OF THE TROPICS and the incredible PRINCESS TAM TAM (1935)

Feb. 26 (Fri) BOSTON WOMEN PERFORM: A WAITRESS PIECE by Julie Mines other performances include CRISTINA FAVRETTA's FULLA SPEAKS and THE GIRLILLAS

All events will be held at the BRATTLE THEATRE, 40 Brattle St., Harvard Square, Tickets may be purchased one week prior to each show at the Brattle box office during regular theatre hours.



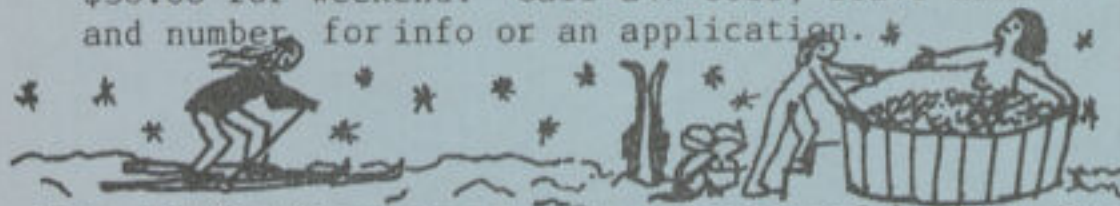
Feb. 1 (Mon) BBWN INTRODUCTORY MEETING, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Square, 7:30pm. Call 247-6683 and leave your name & number. We'll call you back. All women welcome!! TELL YOUR FRIENDS!!

Feb. 6 (Sat) CONNIE KALDOR, Sings at Paine Hall, Harvard Music Bldg. (Behind Science Center), 8:00pm, ASL interpreted, wheelchair accessible. Tickets: \$12.50/13.50 at the door, Call 661-1252 for more information.

Feb. 12-14 (Fri-Sun) MBPN, MAINE BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S

* NETWORK, SECOND ANNUAL SKI WEEKEND AT RICHMOND SAUNA, RICHMOND MAINE: 22 Spaces only, 1st *

* come, 1st serve basis, dorm style accommodations, chemical free environment, vegetarian * meals, access to X-C skiing, hot tubs, saunas, \$30.00 for weekend. Call 247-6683, leave name * and number for info or an application. *



Feb. 13 (Sat) Lavender Hearts: stories of Lesbian Romance and Erotica: JENNIFER JUSTICE, storyteller, Erotic Slide Show and Photo Exhibit by SUSAN WILSON, at 7 and 9pm, Dance at 10:30 at First Congregational Church, Harvard Square, Tickets, \$8.00/9.00 at the door, Call 661-1252 for more information.

Feb. 14 (Sun) HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!!



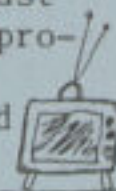
Feb. 14 (Sun) LUCIE BLUE TREMBLAY, Sings at Sanders Theatre, Harvard Univ., ASL interpreted, wheelchair accessible, Tickets: \$12.50/13.50 at the door. Call 661-1252 for more info.

Feb. 18 (Thurs) GLSB, GAY AND LESBIAN SPEAKER'S BUREAU MEETING 7:00pm, Topic: "How We Present Ourselves at Speaking Engagements", Should we live up to stereotypes, or work against them? Call 354-0133 for location and directions.

Feb 21-22 (Sun-Mon) HARVAID: A BENEFIT CONCERT TO INSPIRE HARVARD TO DIVEST; SONGS FOR A FREE SOUTH AFRICA: Sanders Theatre, Harvard U., hosted by PETE SEEGER, Tickets: \$22.50/25.00 at the door, SEE: Jan. Sojou ur pg. 6 for list of performers each night or all 641-1010 for more information. LOOKS SPF TACULAR!!!

Feb. 25 (Thur) BBMN, BOSTON BI SEXUAL MEN'S NETWORK DESSERT POTLUCK & VIDEO NIGHT AT WOODY'S, ROBYN OCHS, was flown to the West Coast for an interview on bisexuality for HOOR MAGAZINE, a syndicated program. We will be showing the

videotape of that program tonight. Also, ROBYN and WOODY GLENN (of BBMN) appeared last month on PEOPLE ARE TALKING (Local Boston program) and we will be seeing that as well. Call 247-6683 (BIS MOVE) for directions and leave a message for Woody. (Men Welcome)



Feb. 29 (Mon) BBWN VOLUNTEER NIGHT, verily and forsooth, we do other things besides stuffing the newsletter and this is the night!! Why doncha come on up and check it out. At Robyn's. Call 247-6683, leave name & number, we'll call back with directions.

Feb. 29 (Mon) APRIL/MAY NEWSLETTER D.E.A.D.- L.I.N.E., keep those cards and letters coming! WE WANT TO HEAR FROM Y.O.U.!!!!!!

March 8 (Tues) HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!!



March 12 (Sat) 5th ANNUAL WOMEN'S STUDIES CONFERENCE: Hearts, Heads & Minds; Feminism in Thought and Action, at Rutgers University. for more info call 932-9717 (see pg. 8 of Nov. 1987 issue of Sojourner for address).

March 14 (Mon) BBWN COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING, at 7:00pm, LOCATION: BOYLSTON HALL, 2B, in Harvard Yard. Come and join in the direction of YOUR network. ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME! Call 247-6683, please leave name & number if you want more information.

March 17 (Thur) HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!!!



March 17 (Thur) GLSB, GAY AND LESBIAN SPEAKER'S BUREAU MEETING, 7:00pm, Topic: "Defending Yourself off Duty"; How to deal with homophobic remarks in social and work situations. Call 354-0133 for location and directions.

March 28 (Mon) BBWN VOLUNTEER NIGHT: Tonight's presentation: THE DOS & DON'TS OF NEWSLETTER STUFFING. Yes folks, there is indeed a right and a wrong way of doing this. So if bulk mail is up your alley this is the place to be! At Robyn's, 7:30pm, APRIL/MAY ISSUE, Call 247-6683 (BIS-MOVE) leave name & number we'll call back with location and directions PROMISE!!

April 4 (Mon) BBWN INTRODUCTORY MEETING, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Square, 7:30pm. Call 247-6683 and leave your name & number. We'll call you back. All women welcome!! TELL YOUR FRIENDS!!



DANCE PARTY & AUCTION

Do YOU have skills, services,
things to donate to the auction?
(typing, computer time, massage,
voice lessons, memberships, gift
certificates, even a tv or vcr)

Or you can help produce the event.

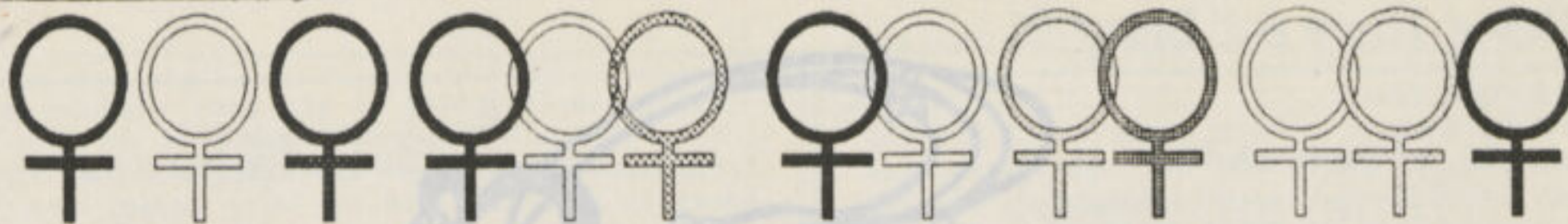
Wheelchair accessible.
Alcohol and smoke free.

Saturday, April 30
7:00 p.m.
Admission only \$3

*in Fickner Lounge, in Boylston Hall
Harvard Yard, Cambridge MA
(Harvard Square J Stop)*

*Call 247-6683 for information.
Leave a message for Robyn.*

A fun(d)raiser to benefit the Boston Bisexual Women's Network



Guess what folks!

It's time for BBWN's annual fundraising/membership drive.
Our goal is to raise **\$3500** in dues and donations.



Name: _____

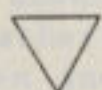
Address: _____

Tel #: _____ Zip _____

Bisexual Pride!
Support your Network.



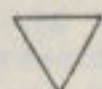
I HAVE ENCLOSED MY DUES, GOOD THROUGH 5/31/89, FOR THE FOLLOWING:



\$7-13 Low Income



\$25-49 Sustainer



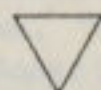
\$14-24 Regular



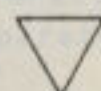
\$50+ Near Goddess



I honestly can't afford even the low income dues but want to remain on the mailing list, so I have enclosed \$_____ (\$0-6)

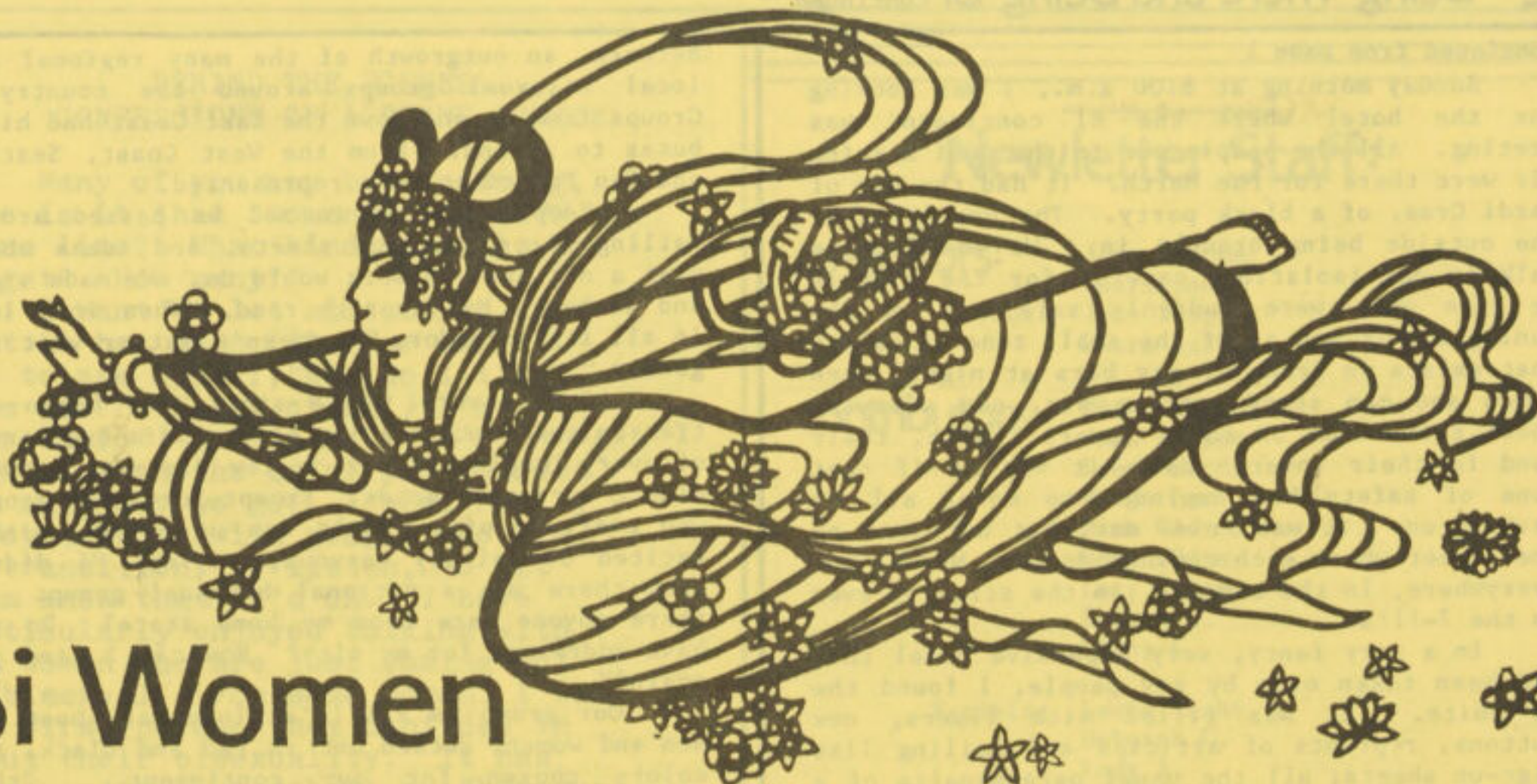


I have enclosed an additional donation of \$



Please remove my name from the mailing list. Reason (optional):

Please return to BBWN, Box 639, Cambridge MA 02140.



Bi Women

Volume 6, Number 2, April-May, 1988

BEING THERE AND BEING BI: THE NATIONAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL RIGHTS

What was it like being at the March on Washington, being out as bisexual at what was probably the largest gathering of gay men and lesbians ever? In part it was being ecstatic about seeing waves and waves of us, a sea of us.

The darker side was knowing that while I included myself in that us, not everyone would. The signs read, "Gay and Lesbian." I felt "Gay and Lesbian, which includes Bisexuals." By being there as a National Bisexual Contingent, we were helping to create a world where the bisexual postscript will be understood and not merely implied.

Saturday night I was sitting in the lobby of a glitzy hotel downtown. I was waiting for a proposed dinner gathering of the Seattle women to materialize when another early arrival asked if I was representing any groups. I said, "I'm the Seattle representative to the National Bisexual Contingent." Her response was heartening. She said, "That's great. I'm glad you're marching." We got that kind of reaction all weekend. In some ways, I think the fact that we were there as part of this massive show of gay and lesbian pride calmed people. One lesbian told me, "You're here as a part of our community. Sometimes I think we get scared because we worry that bisexuals consider themselves separate from our struggles. But here you are."

continued on page 2

EDITORIAL

By [REDACTED] (co-editor)

It has been a whole year of my being co-editor of BI WOMEN with Laura. One whole year. It has been a lively, and difficult, and growing year. Co-editor has been satisfying, demanding and empowering.

The newsletter is a very important voice for the network. It is often the first contact newcomers have, and for bisexual women who live far from Boston, the only contact with us. To be trusted with this responsibility has been a warm vote of confidence that has meant a lot to me, especially this year. I have been going through huge changes in my own life and the network has been one important constant. I feel integrated and strong in my identity as a bisexual woman. BBWN has been a vital part of that life. I am now taking this strength and sense of integration into other parts of my life where I am just finding my feet.

I joined the network in 1983 when it began. I had been part of a radical lesbian group in Vermont and left it feeling very battered. To them, it was not enough to love women, I had to reject men. In the network, I was accepted for who I was. Since I was working in a large advertising agency, at the time, designing and assembling print work, I quickly gravitated to the BBWN newsletter. I worked on it for 2 1/2 years, doing art and layout.

In March 1985, burnt out and disillusioned with advertising, I left Boston to fulfill a dream to travel around the world and to see Australia before I turned 25. I lived in Sydney and traveled extensively in the South Pacific for a year and a half. It was fabulous!

continued on page 7

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network
B.B.W.N., P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA, 02140

2 Being There and Being Bi Continued

Continued from page 1

Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m., I was looking for the hotel where the Bi contingent was meeting. All the people out in the cool morning air were there for the March. It had the air of Mardi Gras, of a block party. The unreality of the outside being brought in. We who usually walk in our isolation, careful for the signals we give out, were suddenly safe out in the sunlight. It was as if the small zone of safety that exists in front of gay bars at night, when women and men stand getting air, not worrying about their arms on their lovers' waist, their hand in their lovers' hair—it was as if that zone of safety had exploded to cover all of Washington. It was Pride day, but not just on the street where each city holds its' March, but everywhere, in the subways, on the streets, even in the 7-11's.

In a very fancy, very expensive hotel that had been taken over by gay people, I found the Bi suite. It was filled with flyers, new buttons, reprints of articles and mailing list sign-up sheets; all the usual paraphernalia of a political/social gathering. A dedicated group of women in Boston had spent months organizing for a Bisexual contingent to the March. The early morning meeting was also the planning meeting for a proposed National Bisexual

Network, an outgrowth of the many regional and local bisexual groups around the country. Groups from up and down the East Coast had hired buses to attend. From the West Coast, Seattle and San Francisco were represented.

People drifted in and we passed around mailing lists, sign-up sheets, and ideas about what a national network would do. We made signs and sashes. My favorite read, "When it's love in all its splendor, it doesn't matter what the gender."

After several false starts, we began our trek to the March staging area. In a huge crowd of every imaginable ilk, a few Bisexual banners didn't turn many heads. Except for a few people who every so often would run up to us, either excited or faintly nervous, saying, "I didn't know there was a national bisexual group. Is there anyone here from my home state? Do you have addresses for my city? How can I find you again?"

Our group in all its glory was about 100 men and women, decked out in red and black, the colors chosen for our contingent. Other regional groups chose to march with the contingents from their home states. The Seattle banner was there, along with the Boston Bisexuals Women's Network's great banner, which

continued on page 4

DANCE PARTY & AUCTION

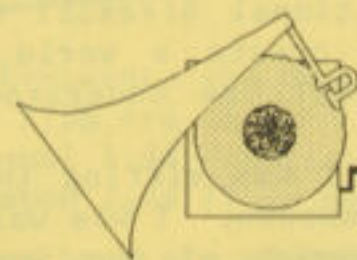
Saturday, April 30
7:00 p.m.

Admission only \$3



Wheelchair accessible.
Alcohol and smoke free.
Men are welcome.

A fun(d)raiser to benefit the Boston Bisexual Women's Network



in Ticknor Lounge, in Boylston Hall
Harvard Yard, Cambridge MA
(Harvard Square T Stop)

Call 247-6683 for information.
Leave a message for Robyn.

BEHIND THE SCENES: CONFESSIONS OF A PHONE JUNKIE

Many of you may be wondering, "Who is it that 'womans' the BBWN phone line? What kind of calls do we get? How many?"

I want to let all of you know what it has been like for me. I had to ask myself, "Why do I like this job?" First of all, I'm your basic 32 yr. old telephone teenager. I kick back on the sofa, put my feet up, and away we go! I also really enjoy talking with people who are in transition, to listen, to let them know that it's OK. I have particularly enjoyed talking with the women who are just coming out as bisexual. For some women, I was the first person they confided in about their bisexuality. It has been wonderful to share my "bisexual pride" with them, and to let them know how important BBWN has been to me over the years. It also helps me personally to recall what the coming out process was like, and to compare that to where I am now... loving my bisexuality!

All of the calls for BBWN, BBMN (Boston Bisexual Men's Network), and ECBN (East Coast Bisexual Network) come in to a central number (247-6683), and are retrieved by one person. I then get a call from that person with the BBWN messages (thanks for all your hard work, Woody!). Due to increased publicity, the volume of calls has increased significantly over the last couple of months. The average in the past has been 1 to 3 calls a week. Following the "Hour Magazine" and "People are Talking" shows, the number soared to approximately 1 a day. We have received calls from as far away as Florida, California, and Michigan, to say nothing of many calls from right here in Boston.

Getting in touch with people is an interesting and fun lesson in fast thinking and discretion, especially when suspicious partners answer the phone. It's also a great opportunity to practice phone counseling skills. We get calls from old-timers interested in the BBWN events, people new to the area, and people new to bisexuality. Many are married or are in long term

cont. on page 4

Newsletter Staff:

co-editors:

Laura Sachs

Layout:

Laura Sachs

contributors:

Beth Reba Weise

Laura Sachs

Nina Carroll

Robyn Ochs

Lucy Friedland

Sharon G.

Ginny L.

Typists:

Laura Sachs

Deborah C.

Lady X.

Robyn Ochs

Lucy Friedland

Calendar: Laura Sachs

THE NAMES PROJECT

New England Residents who have lost a friend or loved one to AIDS are invited to create panels for the National Aids Memorial Quilt, to be displayed in Boston June 17 as part of a 24-city tour.

Local quilting bees are planned to allow friends, families & co-workers of those who have died to create new panels together. For more info. on PANELS call 451-9003. Bees held 4/7, 4/11, 4/21*, 4/28 (*Media invited to this bee).

Volunteers are needed for the following task forces: Fundraising, Media, Outreach, Quilting, & Support Services. Call 396-8642 if you wish to volunteer.

Local Planning meetings will be held: 4/6, 4/20, 5/4, 5/18; 7:00pm in the Piemonte Room at Boston City Hall. (Please use Congress St. entrance).

NAMES PROJECT/NEW ENGLAND, PO BOX 1798, JAMAICA PLAIN, MA 02130, (617) 451-9003.

see flier....

P.S. Please don't think we have forgotten you if there's a time lag between when you call in and when we get back to you. Due to discretionary issues sometimes messages can't be left on answering machines. Also, regarding particular issues, such as: the BBWN Speakers Bureau, **BI WOMEN** (our newsletter), Conference, Retreat, etc.; certain network members must be contacted, and then they will call you back. Thank you for your patience.

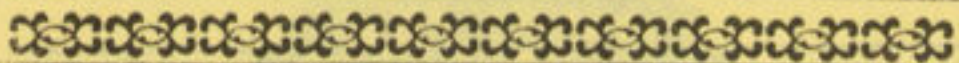
--The Editors

SUMMER SUBLET:

Mature, responsible person(s) wanted to sublet our fully furnished, cozy 4 room apartment with porch. June 1-August 31. Near Central Square. \$640/month plus utilities, negotiable. Call 354-0807 if interested.

May 7 (Sat) "**RIGHTS BEFORE ROSES**", a Boston N.O.W. Rally calling for parenting rights for all women, reasonable & reliable parental leave & child care programs, security for children & an end to cycle of poverty in which many mothers & children get caught.

1:00pm on the Boston Common, call 782-1056 for more info. and exact location, children welcome.



Being There and Being Bi

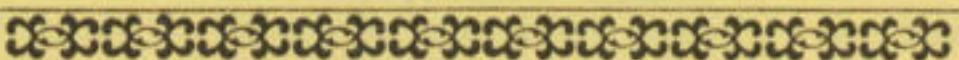
Continued from page 2

reads, "GAY LIBERATION IS OUR LIBERATION." I ran between the Northwest contingent and the Bi one, dragging people back and forth to meet. It felt like giving a party and having everyone I'd invited come. It felt like having two parts of my life coalesce and be made whole.

On a personal level, the march represented community to me. I am a bisexual woman, and I consider myself a part of the lesbian and gay community. Walking along with the bi contingent, I was attending the March not as an outsider giving support, nor as someone playing the part of a lesbian. I was there marching with five hundred thousand other gay men and lesbians to say that my right to love and be loved by whomsoever I choose is as vital to me as breath, and that I will fight for the right, both for myself and for everyone else.

The gay community is our community, though we don't fit in neatly and cleanly; but with ragged edges and parts that don't fit--just like real life. I was there as a bisexual woman, as a feminist, as a person who demands that all my rightful communities make a place for me. The banners held truth. **Silence=Death.** As bisexuals, we choose to be silent no longer.

--Beth Reba Weise



Continued from page 3

lesbian relationships. We really do receive calls from women from all walks of life, from all places on the sexuality continuum. We get occasional inappropriate calls, usually from people looking for a dating service(get my drift?). I gently explain that we are a support network, and guide them elsewhere. The vast majority of people have been very friendly, sincere, and a joy to talk to.

For those of you who plan to call in, for whatever reason, it really helps to hear why you are calling, and particularly how much discretion we need to use when returning your call.

We are compiling a list of you phone lovers who would enjoy this work. It can be for as long or as short as you like, usually a month by month commitment. Just call 247-6683 (BIS-MOVE) and leave a message, and I'll get back to you. (See how easy it is?!)

One last message before I sign off...I want you all to know that BBWN has changed my life. Never have I found a community that has been so accepting of all that I am. Thank you, thank you. I love you all!

See P.S.

SUBSCRIBE!



Looking for Some Bi Political Action?

Join BICEP -

Let's pick up where the March on Washington left off! A Boston-based task force called "BICEP" - the **BI** Committee Engaging in Politics - is forming to work on bi political actions, including both women and men. Some potential activities may be: media relations, networking with the gay & lesbian community, bi visibility campaigns, multi-cultural outreach, letter-writing campaigns, and art activism (like guerrilla theater or graffiti). The possibilities are endless, but we could keep our objectives as small or large as our collective energies dictate.

All suggestions are more than welcome. I would love to hear from anyone who would like to talk about the formation, purpose and strategy of a Bi Political Task Force. If you have any thoughts on bi political activism or would like to attend a planning meeting, please call me at (617) 734-9348 or write: Lucy Friedland, 60 Woodstock Ave., #14, Brookline, MA 01246. Let's see if we can build more muscle in the movement!



Married Bi Womens Support Group possibly meeting in April. Call BIS-MOVE & leave message for MIRTHA if interested.

Bi Women is pleased to announce the birth of a new regional newsletter in the fantastically active Pacific Northwest! The Seattle Bisexual Women's Network has begun publishing, **NORTH BI NORTHWEST**, a newsletter serving the Bi Communities of: British Columbia (Canada), Washington and Oregon. (They would love to hear from their other neighbors). **NORTH BI NORTHWEST** is published 6 times a year (yes, it's bimonthly) and subscriptions are available. Please send \$5 to \$10 (more if you can afford it, less if you can't), to SBWN, PO Box 30645, Greenwood Station, Seattle, WA 98103-0645.

-Laura Sachs

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE, ANOTHER NEWSLETTER!!!

The flyer starts out, "Consider the alternatives (Hint: There aren't any)". But soon there will be. Beginning this month, Gary North in Southern California will begin publishing, **Bisexuality: A Journal of News, Views and Networking**. It will be a forum and information point for women and men, bis and our allies. Putting out a magazine for bis is a plan Gary has been working on for over a year. A few months ago he sent out a letter to bi groups around the country, asking for ideas and thoughts on what a National Bisexual Newsletter should include. Now he's ready to start publishing. He sees the journal as something that will fill a need; it will include news, information, opinion pieces, resource listings and maybe even personals. The first issue will go out free to everyone on his mailing list. After that, there will be a subscription fee of \$25.00/year. Gary is committed to staking the newsletter financially for a least one year. If the newsletter folds he will refund subscription payments on a prorated basis. Newsletters will be delivered in discrete, plain white envelopes. He expects to publish monthly to begin with, and then increase to every other week (that's biweekly folks). He is actively looking for writers from across the country, especially women. For more information, write: Gibbon Publications, PO Box 1174, Visalia, CA 93277-1174

-Beth Weise

SUPPORT GROUP FORMING:

Support Group forming for lesbians coming out as bisexuals. Are there any of you out there? To meet monthly in the Boston area. Please call 1-927-6694 and leave name and number for Ginny. Complete discretion will be observed in all return calls.

6 Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

CC MINUTES JAN. 18, 1988:

Present: Lisa W., N.E.K., S.G., Robyn Ochs,
Laura Sachs, Nina Carroll

1) Topics discussed/Agenda:

A) Administrative Tasks

- a) Treasurer(S.G.) desperately seeking woman handy with calculator
- b) BBWN Archives - to be updated
- c) Speakers Bureau - Robyn Ochs
- d) Correspondence
- e) Mail Coordinator - cast of thousands
- f) ECBN Steering Committee; Laura Sachs and Robyn Ochs
- g) Volunteer Coordinator- N.E.K.
- h) Advertising Agent -
- i) BBWN Hotline - Volunteers
- j) Newsletter - Laura Sachs-typing J.K. - layout and graphics volunteers, authors, stuffers....



2) Handling of the Mailing list

- a) Measures for insuring confidentiality and safekeeping of list were planned
- b) To update the mailing list, a letter will be sent to people whose subscription fee is overdue and who will be taken off the list unless they request to remain.

3) New Ideas (Actually an old idea that keeps popping up/Lets Do It!!) L.S.

- a) How about a brochure on who we are and what we do? (BBWN) Include color pictures and P.O. Box.

4) THERE WILL BE NO ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON BISEXUALITY THIS YEAR 1988. THE FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN 1989. (unless we pull a rabbit out of a hat). Proposed theme is Bi-culture.

5) THE FOURTH ANNUAL SUMMER RETREAT WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 5-7th at ANOTHER PLACE IN GREENVILLE, N.H. organized by ECBN and volunteers. (If you would like to help, please call 247-6683 and let us know - specifically mention the Retreat - thanks. L.S.) Two big rooms and lots of tent space available. See page 8 for more info.

6) FUN(D)RAISER/AUCTION TO BE HELD ON APRIL 30, 1988. Robyn Ochs is full of ideas learned from last year's auction and is willing to work with 4-5 volunteers to put it together.

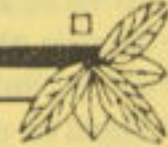
7) BOSTON GAY PRIDE - 1988 (See page 8) S.G. willing to be the bisexual representative at Pride organizing meetings. Who knows when and where? Please call 247-6683 if you'd like to help out on the Annual Brunch before the march!!



Quote of the month:

"We shall not really succeed in discarding the straitjacket of our own cultural beliefs about sexual choice if we fail to come to terms with the well-documented, normal human capacity to love members of both sexes."

-MARGARET MEAD

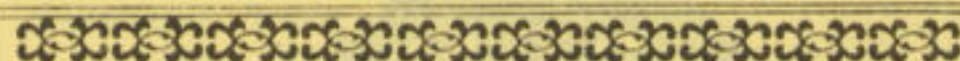


METRO BOSTON WOMEN'S INSURANCE AGENCY

Helena Hantzes

69 Cedar Street
Somerville, MA 02143

(617) 628-8592



Physical Therapist

at Contemporary Therapy, 222 Third St., Suite 3210
Cambridge, MA 02142

617.868.0220

8) NEWSLETTER

Aspiring typists, journalists, editors - would you love to contribute? Attending a bisexual/gay/lesbian event? Please write an article about it. See page 8.

9) BALANCE IN ACCOUNT AS OF 1/18/88: \$2,937.77

--Minutely yours,
Nina Carroll
(Edited by Laura Sachs)



Continued from page 1

In October 1986, I returned to Boston via Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan. Slowly, I settled in. In January 1987, I found a job as an art director in a small, low key advertising agency on Newbury Street. In February, Laura and I, as co-editors, put together the first issue of BI WOMEN. In March, I bought my first home, and have been renovating it. In June, I marched in Gay Pride with the Bisexual contingent.

The rest of the summer I was in limbo. In June, the ad agency went out of business, leaving me unemployed. I looked for work for a while, and then decided to go freelance in graphic design and advertising. My parents separated. In June, Laura and I (along with others) had a 2 hour interview with Newsweek on bisexuality. It was never used -- we weren't sensational enough. My photo was published, however, under the heading, "Bisexuals: Ultimate Pariahs"; a rather drastic coming out to my father followed when the article appeared in July. Our new open communication feels good, but it has also raised more conflicts. All these changes have been a lot to deal with in a short time.

In October, there was the March on Washington. It was very powerful for me. I went to make a political statement, not realizing how much it would touch me inside. I had never felt so safe, and so much a part of a huge crowd. The sense of affirmation, belonging and strength, was profound. It was an incredible high for me. I loved carrying the banner part of the way, and chanting at the top of my lungs. I will never forget it.

At the end of October, my lover moved here from Australia, and we have been living together since then. After living alone for 2 years and seeing different people while traveling, being together has taken a lot of getting used to. Learning to trust someone and letting them inside my heart has been terrifying and exhilarating. Fiercely independent, I had never learned to lean on anyone. Slowly, I am opening up inside.

In January, I joined the Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau. In February, I was elected to their steering committee. They do important educational work in the straight community: workshops for college students, talks to high school teachers, business groups, etc. I am out to them as bisexual. While learning from them to present myself more effectively as a speaker, I helped dispel their myths about us.

In January 1988, several of us from the Bisexual networks appeared on the live TV show, "People Are Talking". Robyn Ochs and Woody Glen were on the panel and I participated from the audience. It was all that the NEWSWEEK article was not -- factual, personable, and informed. It was my first TV appearance. I was delighted with the program and it gave me confidence to do more.

As part of that growing confidence, I have been going to the networking breakfasts for the gay/les/bi groups in Boston. They are the second Wednesday of every month at 8 a.m. at Club Cafe. It is interesting to meet the other groups and hear their speakers. I have been going since January and would love to have company. Call me if you would like to go.

March 1988. It is the one year anniversary of being co-editor of BI WOMEN. My Australian lover must leave the country briefly to renew his U.S. visa. It has been strange to have the politics of immigration enter my personal life.

My life has been very busy and I can see I need more time to sit, and think, and feel. Looking ahead, I'd like to help with the names project (AIDS victims quilt) when it comes to Boston. I'd like to be part of Gay Pride. I'd like to do more

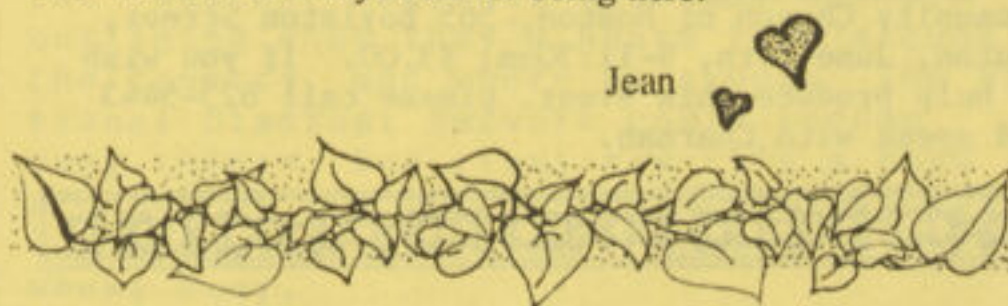
artwork for the newsletter and less organizing. I want to meet more of the new women coming into the network and learn from them. I need to decide if I want to continue my relationship with my lover and return to Australia with him. I want to spend more time on things I'm not good at and look where I want to go next. Consequently, I am resigning as co-editor of BI WOMEN.

It is a ending and a beginning.

We are changing how the BBWN newsletter is done. Instead of just Laura and me, we will have a committee of five women putting together BI-WOMEN, with a rotating co-editorship. With more people involved, the work will be lighter for each, leaving more time for fun. It really is a thrill to put it together and then see it in print. One woman can read all the letters we receive, decide which to print, and how to answer them. Another woman can read the newsletters from other bisexual groups cross-country for selections of national news. Other women can write articles on events on Boston or issues of importance. Then, after typing, it is all put together with graphics and the picture for the front cover is chosen. I always like doing that! We need more women involved so that more viewpoints are represented. Give me a call at 367-3946 and join the Newsletter staff! (You do not need to be discreet) I will be helping out for a while and will be glad to train you.

I love to get your letters and get your feedback about the Newsletter. Thank you all for being here.

Jean



SUBSCRIPTIONS

We Need You!

To start a new subscription or renew your current one, fill out the form below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St./Zip: _____

____ New subscription ____ Renewal

Check one: ____ Low income (\$7)
 ____ Regular (\$14)
 ____ Sustaining (\$25-49)
 ____ Near Goddess (\$50 and up)

Note: Mailing list is confidential.

Moving? Please give us 4 weeks notice:

B.B.W.N.

P.O. Box 639, Cambridge MA 02140
 (617) 247-6683.

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

-Laura

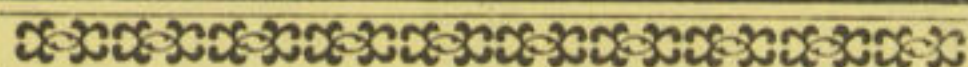
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Treasurers' Report

Previous Balance as of 9/22/87	2058.09
Printing Costs:	
OCT/NOV. Newsletter	325.40
DEC/JAN. Newsletter	330.91
FEB/MARCH Newsletter	218.98
TRI-NETWORK Phone	17.05
Postage: OCT/NOV, DEC/JAN, (partial)	426.03
Advertising/ Sojourner Ad	20.00
Table/March on Washington	50.00
Renewal/Bulk Mail Permit	50.00
BBWN Envelopes	324.08
Miscellaneous Supplies	60.00
Total Costs	1822.45
Income:	
Memberships and Donations	2108.00
Have Donations to National Bisexual Network	86.12
Total Income	2194.12
New Balance as of 3/15/88	2429.76



MAINE BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S NETWORK:

WINTER/SPRING UPDATE:

Despite the nor'easter which pasted our way and kept everyone housebound Friday, 2/12/88, the annual MBPN Ski Weekend was a rousing success. Most people arrived at various times on Saturday and wasted no time in getting acquainted, getting a bite to eat and heading for the trails and hot tubs. The group was made up of some seasoned MBPN members as well as some new faces from the Boston and Maine regions. Following an active day of food, fun and frolicking we spent time as a group getting to know one another better and sharing information about our prospective networks. Everyone seemed to benefit from our weekend together and we look forward to more get togethers and next years Ski Weekend!

--Ginny L.

HONOR ROLL:

Very special thanks to the following women for energy and time generously given to the BBWN during the months of January and February 1988:

Jackie S.	Rebecca P.
Marjorie B.	Nina C.
Sharon G.	Lisa W.
Laura S.	Robyn O.
Deborah C.	[REDACTED]
Ann Marie H.	[REDACTED]
Eileen D.	Andy K.
Shelly C.	Ann G.
	Sharla C.

Yes, It's a National Network!

The Bi Contingent to the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights has born fruit. Out of that meeting a National Bisexual Network has been created. Lucy Friedland and Liz Nania of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network began the work before the march. After the event, they passed the torch (or burden, depending on your point of view) to the West Coast, where Lani Kaahumanu and Autumn Courtney have been working since October. These women distributed an "Are We Ready?" flyer at the march, and have received 60 letters saying, "Yes, We Are!" (There was only one negative response; they were too busy running their local group).

They've also gotten \$600.00 in donations and membership fees, which puts the National Bisexual Network solidly in the black from its very beginning!

Feb. 17th they sent a four page letter to the "Nascent National Bisexual Network" outlining what they'd heard from around the country, and where we stood. The National Bisexual Network could become many things, but right now it's a bank account of \$600.00, a computerized mailing list, and non-profit status is mere weeks away.

Some of the ideas listed for what the **NBN** will become include: Acting as a clearing house for information on bisexuality, sending representatives to major Lesbian/Gay/Heterosexual conferences to represent us at a national level, provide a national information bank and networking resource for Bi groups and individuals, and provide AIDS information updates and resources.

There are still questions about how all of this will come about. But the interest and energy are there. If you have thoughts about what a national network should be, write to **NBN**, c/o Bi-Pol, 584 Castro Street, #442, San Francisco, CA 94114 (send \$2.00 to cover mailings). Look for more news in the coming months!

-Beth Weise

(Awesome! Laura Sachs)



Apr. 4 (Mon) BBWN INTRODUCTORY MEETING, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Square, 7:30pm. Call BIS-MOVE, leave your name & number. We'll call you back PROMISE! ALL women welcome!! TELL YOUR FRIENDS!!

Apr. 6/7 (Wed/Thur) GLSB, GAY & LESBIAN SPEAKERS BUREAU SPRING TRAINING. A two-part training event, 6:30-9:30pm each evening. In Room 222 of the U.MASS/Boston Downtown Campus, corner of Stuart & Arlington Sts. (Park Square). Doors will open @ 6:00pm. Come early, relax, bring dinner. ALL are encouraged to attend. For more information call 354-0133.

Apr. 9 (Sat) BOSTON D.O.B. (DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS) BLOODDRIVE, 10am-3pm, @ O.C.B.C. (Old Cambridge Baptist Church), 1151 Mass. Ave., Harvard Sq. Call Jean @ 277-8150 for more information.

Apr. 9 (Sat) LIVINGSTON TAYLOR, THE PERSUASIONS, UNCLE BONSAI, at the Berklee Performance Center, Boston, produced by Folk Tree, for time & ticket information call 641-1010.

Apr. 9/10 (Sat/Sun) MBPN, MAINE BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S NETWORK OVERNIGHT PAJAMA PARTY! Send S.A.S.E. and phone number for more info. to: MBPN, PO BOX 1792, Portland, ME 04101. All info. kept strictly confidential.

Apr. 14 (Thur) BOSTON GAY PRIDE MEETING. Please call Pride Committee, 267-2113 for time & Place.

Apr. 17 (Sun) ODETTA performs @ First Church of Boston, Roxbury. Fundraiser for organ restoration, 3:00pm. Call 445-3263 for information.

Apr. 21 (Thur) G.L.S.B., GAY & LESBIAN SPEAKERS BUREAU MEETING, 7:00pm, Topic to be announced. Call 354-1022 for location & directions.

Apr. 23 (Sat) BETSY ROSE IN CONCERT/PAT HUMPHRIES opens the concert. Betsy is celebrating the release of her new album, "Wings Against the Sky", Paine Hall, Harvard Univ., Behind Science Center, 8:00pm, Tickets \$12.50/\$13.50/door, Call Revolutionary Acts @ 661-1252 for more info/tickets. TDD (deaf) reservations call 492-0935 ♿

Apr. 23 (Sat) BUFFY SAINTE-MARIE, DONOVAN, at Berklee Performance Center, Boston, produced by Folk Tree, for time & ticket info. call 641-1010.

Apr. 25 (Mon) BBWN VOLUNTEER NIGHT, tonight we present, HOW NOT TO STUFF A NEWSLETTER. Yes indeed we do other stuff (ha, ha) so come on in and check it out!!! At Robyn's, call 247-6683 leave name & number, we'll call back with directions.

Apr. 25 (Mon) JUNE/JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE, oh how sad you say? Well not if you send your words of wisdom in, so PLEASE DO! Keep those cards & letters coming. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!!!!

Apr. 30 (Sat) BBWN DANCE PARTY & AUCTION FUN(D)-RAISER, Come to town and BOOGIE! See page 2 for more details.

May 1 (Sun) FIRST REGIONAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL BISEXUAL NETWORK!!! YOU, yes YOU BELONG to this network (if you belong to BBWN, BBMN, ECBN, MBPN, etc.)(see pg. 9) To start discussion about what WE want it to be, do, etc., Room 2b, Boylston Hall, Harvard Yard, 1-5pm, bring food if you wish. There is written info. you should get & read before the meeting. It would be helpful if you could call 247-6683 & leave your name & number so we can send it to you, but even if you can't, COME ANYWAY!! See page nine.

May 7 (Sat) OLIVIA RECORDS 15th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT, with: Cris Williamson, Lucie Blue Tremblay, Tret Fure, Diane Davidson, Nancy Vogl, Diedre McCalla, at the Berklee Performance Center, 2 shows: 5 & 9pm, \$14.50/\$16.50, for tickets & info. call Folk Tree Concerts 641-1010. ♿

May 9 (Mon) BBWN COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING, at 7:00pm, Room 2B, Boylston Hall, Harvard Yard. Come and join in the direction of YOUR network. Be informed or come and help keep us informed! ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME! Call 247-6683, please leave name & number if you wish more info.

May 21 (Sat) RONNIE GILBERT & ODETTA, in concert together for the FIRST time, 8:00pm, Sanders Theatre, Harvard Univ., \$15.00/\$13.00 (reserved seating), call Revolutionary Acts 661-1252 for info/tickets. For TDD (deaf) reservations only call 492-0935. ♿

May 23 (Mon) BBWN VOLUNTEER NIGHT, tonight's presentation, "The Newsletter that enlightened the WORLD!" We stuff the June/July issue and keep people SMILING! So come on to Robyns at 7:30pm and join the FUN (we mean it!) Call 247-6683 leave name & number, we'll call back with directions, PROMISE!

May 27-30 (Fri/Sun) SYMPOSIUM XV: GAY PRIDE IN Maine, Univ. of Southern Maine on Gorham Campus. Workshops include: Gay Parents, Gay Youth, Monogamy, Bisexuality, Safe Sex, Gay History, etc. 2nd Annual Pride March through Downtown Portland/Dance, plays, film fest., call GLA 207-780-4085.

June 2-5 NATIONAL WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL, Main stage concerts, over 100 workshops, writers conference. Preregistration rate deadline 4/30. for brochure write: NWMF, Dept. HA, PO BOX 5217, Bloomington, IN 47407 or call 812-331-7799.

June 6 (Mon) BBWN INTRODUCTORY MEETING, see description of April 4.

June 11 (Sat) BOSTON GAY PRIDE MARCH, starts at 12:00 noontime from the Government Center Plaza. Come march with BBWN and BE PROUD!(see pg. 8)

June 11 (Sat) BBWN 4TH ANNUAL PRE-MARCH BRUNCH! (see pg. 8 for details)

Bi Women



JUNE-JULY VOLUME 6, NUMBER 3, 1988

Dear Bi Women Readers:

I wrote the following piece for the Lesbian & Gay Pride '88 Program Booklet. I hope you enjoy! However, all this pretty rhetoric will come to naught if bi's don't get their buns out there and MARCH!!! If you only attend one event for the whole entire year as an OUT bisexual, this is the one! I can't emphasize enough how crucial it is for both ourselves and everything BBWN stands for that you join the Bi Contingent on Gay Pride, Saturday, June 11th. We even have a dandy brunch beforehand to kick it off. (See Calendar.) Please march with the Bi Contingent this year. You can hang out with your gay and lesbian friends and political groups anytime, but this is our big chance to publicly express the joy and exhilaration we feel at finding our own bisexual selves and finding each other. If you don't normally feel comfortable attending gay events, come to the brunch, at least, and catch the spirit. Bring your straight friends and lovers; we welcome them too! See you June 11th under the banners!

With love and solidarity, Lucy

Bi Pride and Gay Sensibility

A number of us marching in Lesbian & Gay Pride '88 are bisexual. As bisexuals, we prize the efforts of lesbians and gays who liberate us all by insisting on their right to love freely. This is the season of Stonewall, when we commemorate the action of folks, mainly drag queens and people of color, who got sick and tired of continual harassment about their sexual preference. When instead of filing into police wagons for the umpteenth time, they got mad and fought back.

Now, 19 years later, as gays and lesbians fight for their freedom in legislatures and courts all over this Earth, as bisexuals we say, "WE ARE PART OF THIS!"

People who identify as bisexual are bisexual. Mostly, they aren't hiding from their true gay and lesbian selves, ready to disappear into heterosexual privilege in times of trouble. Bisexuality, for many of us, is a stable, long-term sexual preference. For this reason, bi's are battling the same evils

that gays and lesbians battle - heterosexist institutions: the court that barges its way into our bedrooms, and the state that wrenches away our adopted children. The politician who sees gay and lesbian opposition as a boon to his campaign, and the corporation that initiates mandatory AIDS testing.

Like homosexuality, bisexuality can be poison to the heterosexist power structure. Bisexuality, in its own way, makes everyone more difficult to control, to coerce. Bisexuality confounds the paradigm that pits straights against gays, and the so-called "normal" people against the "deviants."

No matter who a bisexual chooses to love, be it a same-sex partner or opposite-sex partner, a gay sensibility flourishes inside. When lesbian Latinas in the Bronx are beat up by the cops, as bisexuals, we feel it. When members of Mass ACT OUT are dragged out of the Senate gallery, we feel it. And when 600,000 people converge on Washington, D.C. to raise a ruckus about gay rights, we are proud as hell!

continued on page 10

DON'T FORGET:

BBWN'S 5TH ANNUAL PRE-MARCH BRUNCH at the Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston Street, Boston, 9-11am. PLEASE NOTE THAT MEN ARE WELCOME AT THIS YEAR'S BRUNCH!!

If you miss the Brunch (oh nooo!) but would LOVE to march with BBWN'S Contingent, please meet us at 11:30am under the BBWN BANNER in front of the BEACON HILL CINEMA, ONE BEACON ST., CORNER OF TREMONT & BEACON STREETS. WE'LL BE WAITING!! ***

See page 12

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network
B.B.W.N., P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA, 02140

2 Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

BBWN Coordinating Committee Minutes
14 March 1988, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
Present: Lucy F. (chair), Sharon G.,
Jean K., Robyn O., Laura S., and Janet
(Co-Chair of Boston Pride Committee)

The following decisions were reached: 1) FUNDRAISER: to hire Chris M. as dj for \$50; 2) PRIDE: to lobby for bi speaker at rally and, if approved, to involve several members w/speechwriting; 3) to attend 4/14/88 Pride committee mtg. to present info on BBWN; 4) Charnan to coordinate brunch, usual site reserved; 5) to rent vendor table at rally; 6) to make our usual \$25 donation to Pride; 7) Lucy will arrange to have 100 t-shirts printed with logo designed by Liz; 8) to sell buttons and t-shirts at rally and brunch; 9) NAMES QUILT: to insert a flyer about this project into next mailing; 10) NATIONAL BISEXUAL NETWORK (NBN): to have local meeting to discuss NBN, inviting ECBN steering committee members, on May 1 (after fun(d)raiser from 1-5 p.m. in Boylston 2B, Harvard U (key question: if NBN becomes reality, is ECBN still needed, and what relationship do we want between NBN & Boston?); 11) NEWSLETTER: Jean Kropper's resigned as co-editor, will continue writing and artwork for newsletter and is willing to help train new people. Need to expand base of people involved; 12) RETREAT: set for August 5-7, deposit has been put on Another Place in NH. People needed to organize; 13) TELEPHONE: Lucy, then Jean, will follow Marge as phone person. Goal is to keep long chain of volunteers lined up in advance for this job, each committing to do at least 1 month; 14) COMMUNICATION: need to develop better inreach to volunteers and other members; 15) OUTREACH: we will resume past practice of putting out our newsletter at New Words, Glad Day and Redbook; 16) WORKSHOPS: approved in theory that BBWN will sponsor AIDS education workshop and anti-racism workshop w/in next several months; 16) NEXT CC MEETING will focus on INREACH, including newsletter. How best to maximize member involvement w/ goal of rotation of responsibilities?
- Submitted by Robyn Ochs

Treasurers' Report

Please Note: No Treasurer's Report this issue - it will reappear next issue.

Looking for Some Bi Political Action?

Join BICEP -

The BI Committee Engaging in Politics - a group composed of both women and men - is forming to work on bi political actions. Some potential activities may be: media relations, networking with the gay & lesbian community, bi visibility campaigns, multi-cultural outreach, letter-writing campaigns, and art activism (like guerrilla theater or graffiti). The possibilities are endless, but we could keep our objectives as small or large as our collective energies dictate.

All suggestions are welcome. Please come to the first brainstorming meeting to talk about the formation, purpose and strategy of a bi political task force. If you can't make the meeting but would like to get involved or give armchair advice, please call me at (617) 734-9348 or write: Lucy Friedland, 60 Woodstock Ave., #14, Brookline, MA 01246. Let's see if we can build more muscle in the movement.

First BICEP Meeting is Monday night, June 20th, 7:30 in Boylston Hall, Room 2B at Harvard University. (Go into Harvard Yard through the gate that is across from Au Bon Pain in Harvard Square. Boylston Hall is 2nd building or so on the right, the Romance Language Building.) See you there!

F.Y.I. (FOR YOUR INFORMATION):

The first meeting of the local planning committee for the National Bisexual Network took place Sunday May 1 (fourteen people attended). News on the formation and goals of the network will be forthcoming in the Aug/Sept. Newsletter. STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES!!

July 20-26 THE 2nd INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN & GAY HEALTH CONFERENCE AND AIDS FORUM, being held at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers. Sponsored by the National Lesbian & Gay Health Foundation, the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights & the George Washington Univ. Medical Center. 100's of workshops to choose from. Please call 202-797-3708 or write: NLGHF, PO Box 65472, Washington, DC 20035 for all details.

Ongoing: Every Wednesday: 7:30pm, AL-ANON GROUP FOR BISEXUAL ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS. An Al-Anon meeting for Bi Adult Children of Alcoholics meets Wednesday nights at Mass. General hospital, lower amphitheater (next to emergency entrance). For more info & directions call Marge (617) 259-1559.

BIS IN THE NEWS

by Robyn Ochs

Bisexuals have been getting a lot of press of late. Much of this attention comes in the form of finger pointing in the straight press as a result of the growing AIDS epidemic but our presentation in the gay and feminist presses has been far more positive. Following is a recounting of some of our experiences with (gasp!) The Media.

People are Talking, Boston 1/6/88

This show focused on the effects of bisexuality on marriages. The first three panelists were men from the Gay Fathers organization who were once married and now identify as gay, not bi. In the second segment of the show they were joined by Francis Giambroni, a Boston therapist who works with gay and bi male clients. In addition, Mirta of BBWN and her teenage son were interviewed from the audience. Woody of BBMN and I joined the others during the last two segments. Although the combination of guests seemed incongruous (why gay fathers on a show that was advertised as being about bisexuality?) the host, Tom Bergeron, was both intelligent and thoughtful. The audience was about half filled with other members of Boston bi groups - thanks to BBWN members Charnan, Jean, Liz, Lucy, Mirta & Pepper for audience support.

Hour Magazine, 11/25/87

I received a telephone call in October from the show's producer Dan Weaver. He was looking for "three bisexuals" to appear on the show. I asked him if he had a specific focus in mind. He responded that he was looking for three bisexuals who were in a relationship. I said "With each other?" He said "Yes, of course." I asked whether he was doing a show on bisexuality or on three-way or open relationships. He responded, "on bisexuality," and seemed confused at the distinction I was trying to draw. We subsequently spoke for a long time and I sent him written material and a videotape of a 1986 People are Talking show. He called me back a couple of weeks later to apologize for his confusion and to invite me to appear on the show. We set about looking for two more people. This was somewhat difficult as some of the old "media bis" have since retired from the public eye. One NH man, who had appeared on TV in the past, regretfully declined because his child is now in school and he was concerned about possible homophobia directed at his son if he were to appear on national TV. I called BABN and Ann Justi and Eric Garris volunteered to do the show. We were each interviewed extensively before the show and briefed about its format. We were told that the show would be entirely personal (as opposed to political) in focus and that we should speak only from our own individual experience.

The trouble began just before the show began. We mentioned the promise that had been made to us to show our organizations' telephone numbers on screen and were told that they would not be shown. We insisted that this was a prerequisite for our cooperation and were subsequently assured that we would be allowed to verbally announce our numbers at the end of the show. Then, just before show time, we glanced at the teleprompter and saw the introduction which began "Newsweek calls them the ultimate pariahs..." We began to suspect that we were not in a very supportive environment.

Gary Collins, the host, proved both ignorant and homophobic. He believed that coming out as a bisexual to someone was the equivalent of propositioning them, and couldn't understand that bis and gays are assumed by most people to be heterosexual until they state otherwise. He also couldn't understand our contention that many straight people announce their sexual orientation by wearing wedding bands.

The focus of the show unfortunately kept coming back to AIDS, with bisexuals presented as "walking time bombs." He kept focusing on Ann & Eric's open relationship and ignoring my monogamous lifestyle, which didn't fit into his stereotypes. He seemed unable to grasp the fact that it is unsafe sex rather than bisexuality per se that puts people at risk for AIDS.

Despite the intense bi-phobia and ignorance we were up against, the show turned out pretty well, and resulted in dozens of telephone calls to our phones.

People are Talking, San Francisco 11/10/87

This show focused on married bis, including Ann and Eric, and panelist involved were pleased with the outcome.

Bay Windows, New England 9/24-30/87

"Bisexuals Barred from Advertising in Phoenix Personals" and "Bisexuals Respond to Prejudice in the Age of AIDS." Two bi-positive articles about bi-phobia. Written by John Perry.

March on Washington media coverage, fall 1987

Letters about the National Bisexual Contingent, many written by Lucy Friedland and Liz Nania, inundated the gay and straight press during the fall. In addition, footage of our Bi contingent was aired by more than one TV station.

continued on page 4

Diane Fischler

MASSAGE THERAPIST

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Playgirl, October 1987

A wonderful article by Laura Fissinger, who interviewed a number of people at the conference in New York. This article is straight(?)forward and nonjudgmental, presenting excerpts from interviews with several bi men and women, and concluding with a statement that greater acceptance of bisexuals, both by ourselves and others will make for a more acceptable world for all.

Newsweek, 8/3/87

Letter to the editor expressing anger at the July article.

Plexus, August 1987

An interview with Maggi Rubenstein and a resource guide. Ann Justi reports that it was a good educative article.

Seattle Gay News, July 1987

Very positive article about the 1987 conference in New York by Beth Weise of the Seattle Bisexual Network.

Newsweek, 7/13/87

Ho-ho-homophobia! See past issues of Bi Women (V5, nos. 5, 6 & 7) for more about this fiasco.

Off Our Backs, June-July 1987

Very favorable article on the conference. Letters in subsequent issues were less supportive.

Coming Up!, June, 1987

"Are We Visible Yet" by Lani Kaahamanu of the Bay Area. Reportedly a good article, with interesting letters following.

The Washington Blade, May, 1987

"Bisexuals Confer in NYC to Dispel Myths" by Peg Byron. Interviews with Maggi Rubenstein and participants at the NYC bi conference. Good, positive article.

So what does all of this media coverage mean for us? I believe that overall its a good thing. More of us are coming forward, and at least people are less likely now to say that we don't exist. Please write in with accounts of any other media coverage not listed above. Media can be a very important tool in educating folks about bisexuality. We need to learn to use this tool effectively.

The preceding article drew heavily from an article entitled "Media Summary" by Ann Justi which appeared in the Jan/Feb 1988 Bay Area Bisexual Network Newsletter (BABN, 48 Shattuck Square #142, Berkeley CA 94704).

Note: we are looking for copies of the Plexus, and Off Our Backs articles for our archives. If you have either of these (or any others), please send a copy to BBWN.

Poetry

STATIONS OF MY SOUL

One :

"Travelin' lady
stay awhile
until the night
is over.
I'm just a station
on your way,
I know I'm not
your lover." *

Two :

Pray, wandering mind,
stay put awhile
and let me think
things over.
Why did you tell me
this last spring
just as I took
a lover?

Three :

Ah lovely green earth
pray with me
'til my life's
season's over.
Thank you for your
whispering voice,
and my friend, once thought
my lover.

by

* from a song by Leonard Cohen

TWO EVENINGS EVERY TWO MONTHS

is all we ask. We need help on the newsletter in any of a variety of ways: reading Bi newsletters worldwide for interesting snippets for ours, answering correspondence, choosing poetry and graphics to put in, putting Calendar together, writing up some current event, typing, and paste-up or assembly of the newsletter itself! We are getting much more organized which makes it all run smoother, but we do need your help. It's really rather fun to be part of, so do give us a call. Leave a message at BIS-MOVE for "Newsletter." Thanks a lot.

& Laura



Dear Newsletter Organizers:

I am renewing my subscription at the low income price. Sorry - Lander, WY just doesn't have much to offer economically these days.

The reason for writing is that I'm interested in both Maggi Rubenstein's 1980 doctoral dissertation on Bisexuals and Self-Esteem, and for Regina Reinhart's dissertation "Bisexual Women in Heterosexual Relationships", mentioned in the December-January '88 Newsletter. How can I get a hold of copies and at what cost? If you could provide me with any information I would be most grateful.

Thank you for your newsletter. It is always inspiring to read that others are confronting like issues in their lives.

Sincerely, Nicole E.

P.S. Dear Nicole and all others who have called or written in requesting copies of both Maggi Rubenstein's and Regina Reinhart's dissertations: Please be advised that the information will appear in the August/September issue of BI WOMEN. - Laura.

Dear BBWN,

Thanks for your patience and persistence with procrastination such as yours truly.

I have so much enjoyed your newsletter and look forward to receiving them. I have also attended a couple of your conferences when I've had the time in Boston and Connecticut.

I am 45 years old, married 20 years with no children by conscious choice. My last long term relationship (7 years) with a woman ended three years ago when she moved to Florida. My life has been enriched by the relationships I have had and because of support, shared values and philosophy of life with my mate. I am a psychotherapist by profession and teach at several New England colleges in the school of Human Services. I would be happy to facilitate a workshop at one of your conferences or retreats, if given the opportunity. I want to applaud your efforts and all that you have done to raise the consciousness of the community.

Just happened to see "People Are Talking" when a couple from the network were on and they were great.

Thanks again, Diane - Londonderry, N.H.

cont. on page 6



Very, very special cherry-on-top thanks to the following wondrous women for time & energy so generously given to the BBWN during the months of March, April, and May, 1988:

Heidi F.	Jackie S.
Sharla C.	Nancy K.
Sharon G.	Laura S.
Betty A.	Sue W.
Patty H.	Lisa W.
Rebecca G.	Robyn O.
Eileen D.	Charnan B.
Marjorie B.	Lucy F.
Cheryl M.	Nina C.
Marge L.	Ann G.
Jean K.	Jill H.
Ruth L.	I.J.C.
Andy K.	M.C.D.

Special thanks also to Pat H. and the furry girls, Naji O. and Luca O. for letting us invade their space!!!



Bi Women

SUBSCRIPTIONS

To start a new subscription or renew your current one, fill out the form below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St./Zip: _____

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☐ Renewal

Check one: ☐ Low income (\$7)
☐ Regular (\$14)
☐ Sustaining (\$25-49)
☐ Near Goddess (\$50 and up)

Note: Mailing list is confidential.

Moving? Please give us 4 weeks notice:

B.B.W.N.
P.O. Box 639, Cambridge MA 02140
(617) 247-6683.

SUPPORT YOUR NETWORK!



6 FUNDRAISER UPDATE:

AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD!

BBWN's second annual fun(d)raising auction and dance party was a great success on Saturday, April 30. The event, which attracted approximately 60 BBWN members and their friends, succeeded in raising \$850 for BBWN. Among the items auctioned were concert tickets, weekends for two at country inns, beautiful platters and goblets crafted in wood, subscriptions to Bay Windows, GCN and Sojourner, autographed books and a video club membership.

Special thanks to the following for their donations to the auction:

*** BUSINESSES:

ACTION VIDEO, Cambridge MA
ALLYSON PUBLICATIONS & BAY WINDOWS,
Boston MA
COUNTRY OPTIONS INN, Ashland Village NH
FIRE OPAL, Jamaica Plain MA
FOLKTREE CONCERTS, Arlington MA
GAY COMMUNITY NEWS, Boston MA
THE HIGHLANDS INN, Bethlehem NH
HORIZON DISTRIBUTION, Cambridge MA
LAMB'S MILL INN, Naples ME
LYNNO ALIVE,
NEW WORDS BOOKSTORE, Cambridge MA
REVOLUTIONARY ACTS!, Cambridge MA
ROCK AGAINST SEXISM, Boston MA
SOJOURNER, Cambridge MA

*** To I.J., Jean & Andrew, Kate, Laura, Marge, Mary Ann, Nina, Ruth, and Sharla for donating goods or services.

*** To Chris M. for sound.

*** To all of the women and men who volunteered at the event with set up, clean up, staffing the front desk, baking, and blowing up purple, yellow and pink balloons.

*** And to Andy, Ann, Jackie, Laura, Marjorie, and Robyn for producing the event.

See you at next year's fun(d)raiser!



Readers' Forum cont. from page 5

Dear BBWN,

Your ad in Sojourner interested me. I've been trying for some time to come to a cogent position on the implications of my bisexuality on my radical feminist politics. It's nice to know somebody else is dealing with similar issues.

I live a bit far from Boston to play a very active role in your organization, but I would very much like a copy of your newsletter and any networking suggestions you could supply.

Thank you for your time.

Kathleen -- Sitka, Alaska

Dear BBWN,

First of all, a long-overdue thanks for continuing to send me the newsletter, despite my lack of response. You have managed to follow me through several changes of address -- a most remarkable feat (perhaps it involves a certain goddess I know in Vermont?) It is always wonderful to read *BiWomen* -- it never fails to rejuvenate my self-confidence, to reconfirm my sexual legitimacy. But at times I do feel a bit wistful, reading about so many exciting things happening so far from home. (I admit my obsession with graduate school prevents me from organizing anything here.)

About putting men on the mailing list -- I was especially struck by the thoughtful comments of A. W. (from Dixmont, ME.). Reading her words prevented me from writing a somewhat paranoid response. So I will simply applaud her letter and say -- let the men read. My thanks and best wishes to all that is BBWN.

Bye for now, but Bi forever, Pamela - Austin, TX.

Dear BBWN,

After having been married for almost 9 years, I am now divorced and a single parent. Since my financial situation has changed quite a bit (for the worse) - I'd like to find out if there are any other single Mom's out there who'd like to correspond. I'm tired of being isolated and want to open new avenues of communication in the bi-community.

My daughter will be 4 in May and I have so many questions! For example: When and how do you tell your child(ren) you're bisexual? How did your child(ren) handle it? and the questions go on and on.

BBWN - Can you help me with this? You've helped me many times in the past with you're wonderful articles. Is there anyone out there with older children who could write articles geared to this problem? Thanks again for your dynamic and innovative newsletter!

Sincerely, Jet Tenley - Seattle, WA.



It was probably one of the greatest moments in Bisexual History. Over 100 Bisexual women and men from about twenty states and representing a growing movement of bisexual networks across the nation with the courage and conviction to affirm their identity joined over a half a million lesbians, gays, and gay rights activists who marched for all of us on October 11, 1987 at the March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights. I am proud to have been among them. The March was the most powerful expression of gay, lesbian, and bisexual pride, community, and love that I have ever witnessed or participated in. Several months have passed and still the very magical energy which the March infused within each of us continues to affect us all.

It was exciting and affirming to see Washington D.C. overrun by dykes, bis, and gay men. We were everywhere - on the streets, in restaurants, museums, in the subways and bookstores. All weekend strangers were smiling at each other with a sense of community pride that was unbelievable. It was truly a national community.

Sunday morning at 8:15 marked the beginning of a very important event: the first truly National Gathering of Bisexual men and women from all over the United States. Much appreciation was expressed to the Boston Bisexual Women's Network for organizing a National Bisexual Contingent for the March on Washington. Recognition of this role needs to be continued.

Our meeting place was as incredible as the occasion - a suite at the Mayflower Hotel: a location for many Reagan-era Tea Parties dripping in crystal chandeliers, gold-trimmed mirrors, and plush carpets was offered to us by the National March Committee for our meeting.

An incredible energy, a feeling of electricity charged the whole atmosphere of the meeting. We made networking contacts and instant friends and compared experiences of our community locally, regionally, and nationally. We shared bisexual and gay/lesbian literature from various parts of the country. We congratulated ourselves as often as possible. We pinned on Bisexual Pride and Bi-phobia shield pins, and we talked about forming a National Bisexual Network. We will all be hearing more about this in the future, and the Bisexual Connection in the Twin Cities will participate and have a role to play.

From the Mayflower over 100 of us walked together to the Ellipse where we gathered and organized ourselves, signs, banners, and our strength for the March. When the March began we hoisted high the beautiful banner of the Boston Women which read: "Bisexual Pride - Gay Liberation is our Liberation". We carried signs proclaiming "Bisexuality is a Viable Option"; "Hug a Bisexual - We play safe too"; the ever-popular "Equal Opportunity Lover"; and I carried a sign which proclaimed "We are not Fence-Sitters - We are Bridge Builders". We marched next to the Transgenderal contingent and some decked out, Gay Bagpipers. One of the most wonderful moments for us occurred when, after we had finished singing a chorus of "When the Bis go Marching By", the Scotsmen responded and played it on their bag pipes and we sang the refrain with them.

Thousands of people lined the streets along the March's path - cheering us all and acknowledging and expressing support of our presence as a Bisexual group affirming our link/bond with the Gay and Lesbian community.

The Rally itself, having already begun before we reached our site on the Mall between Capitol Hill and the Washington Monument, was indeed as exciting as the March itself, because there I witnessed hundreds of thousands of us (estimates included 800,000 by CBS News and 200,000 by the Park Service) joining together in one massive, united gathering. It was to say the least incredible. I personally

continued on page 8



felt, as many of my brothers and sisters also expressed, that we were completely welcome and accepted as bisexuals - more so than at any other local, regional, or national gay and lesbian event.

Many spoke from the March's stage about our community pride and our love for each other and for ourselves and our pain and anger about Aids. Though many of us in our contingent were aware of the largely conspicuous absence of the word "BISEXUAL", we heard it on occasion and cheered wildly. But hell give us a few years and a few million hours of consciousness-raising of the Gay, Lesbian, and Heterosexual communities and just maybe.... That's why we were there - for all of us and will continue to be.

We were up to our task and had a major success story resulting from an unfortunate remark made by a Lesbian comic from the March stage. After a dreadful introduction repeated twice - saying "Ladies and Gentlemen, dykes and fags and the confused remainder", (we didn't laugh) a group of us wrote her a note asking for a public apology. A stage manager although reticent delivered the note, and the comic though not making an apology from the Stage, sought out our contingent and made a personal apology stating she hadn't intended to refer to Bisexuals but to those who were unsure of themselves and promised not to use the line in that form again. We made our point and an important step was taken.

The March and Gathering of so many of us - gay, lesbian, and bisexual - was empowering, joyous, and wonderful, and it was very difficult to let go of the moment. We will celebrate it in our hearts and share our pride with other Bisexuals who were unable to be there, but one question remains aptly expressed by Liz Nania and Lucy Friedland - co-coordinators of the National Bisexual Contingent, "How do we use this experience? How do we keep this spirit alive? How does this impact on the Bisexual Community locally and nationally?" The March generated a lot of energy - we must use it or lose it. The unanimous feeling present at the Mayflower meeting was that now is the time for doing more work on lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues. The AIDS Crisis as devastating as it has been has also elevated the nation's awareness of our issues. All of us must begin to express our bisexual pride. We must come out if we can and link up with other bisexuals in our community and work for gay and lesbian issues and raise the consciousness of the Heterosexual, Gay, and Lesbian community about Bisexual Issues. We also can contribute and participate in the formation of a new National Bisexual Network. We can't and won't go back or stay underground any more. The statement we made at the National Gay and Lesbian March on October 11, 1987 was a demand to the whole world for public recognition and acceptance of our sexual preference, and we were willing to draw attention to ourselves to raise that consciousness. We cannot leave bisexual liberation in the hands of the gay and lesbian community expecting our freedoms to be automatically secured by their struggles. We must work with them where we can, but Bisexuals must look out for the interests of bisexuals everywhere: in the gay/lesbian press, in the straight media, and in cultural and political groups. These are all places to start and concentrate on.

We shall be heard - we shall be seen. We are coming out of our closets - stronger and with Pride.

by: Gary Lingen - from
personal recollections
and notes from the
emerging Bisexual Press



(He speaks, but to himself, being aware how it is with her)

Think not I have not heard.
Well-fanged the double word
And well-directed flew.

I felt it. Down my side
Innocent as oil I see the ugly venom slide:
Poison enough to stiffen us both, and all our friends;
But I am not pierced, so there the mischief ends.

There is more to be said; I see it coiling;
The impact will be pain.
Yet coil; yet strike again.
You cannot riddle the stout mail I wove
Long since, of wit and love.

As for my answer . . . stupid in the sun
He lies, his fangs drawn:
I will not war with you.

You know how wild you are. You are willing to be turned
To other matters; you would be grateful, even.
You watch me shyly. I (for I have learned
More things than one in our few years together)
Chafe at the churlish wind, the unseasonable weather.

"Unseasonable?" you cry, with harsher scorn
Than the theme warrants; "Every year it is the same!
'Unseasonable!' they whine, these stupid peasants!—and never
since they were born
Have they known a spring less wintry! Lord, the shame,
The crying shame of seeing a man no wiser than the beasts he
feeds—
His skull as empty as a shell!"

("Go to. You are unwell.")

Such is my thought, but such are not my words.

"What is the name," I ask, "of those big birds
With yellow breast and low and heavy flight,
That make such mournful whistling?"



"Meadowlarks,"

You answer primly, not a little cheered.
"Some people shoot them." Suddenly your eyes are wet
And your chin trembles. On my breast you lean,
And sob most pitifully for all the lovely things that are not and
have been.



"How silly I am!—and I know how silly I am!"
You say; "You are very patient. You are very kind.
I shall be better soon. Just Heaven consign and damn
To tedious Hell this body with its muddy feet in my mind!"

—Edna St Vincent de Millet

You were asleep on your back, half curled away from me
towards your right side. Soft darkness filled the bedroom with
silence. The glow of the city drifted in through the open third-
floor window. Something had woken me. I lay on my right
side, head up on one elbow, watching you. My heart pounded
in my ears. It must have been 3 a.m., maybe 4. I was afraid
of moving and disturbing your sleep. I wanted to wake you
and make love to you, but I didn't know how to make love or
what to say to you when you woke up. I didn't know if you
would be annoyed or what you would think or if you would
tease me. I liked watching you when you were asleep; I didn't
feel intimidated. You opened up and looked vulnerable. Ten
minutes passed, perhaps half an hour. I looked out the
window over my shoulder and the bed creaked. Panic. You
didn't wake. The blank white walls seemed cold and I wanted
to snuggle against your back. But then I might have to say
something. Tied in knots. My muscles ached to change
position. I wanted to just run my fingertips across your cheek
and reached out my hand and then saw it there, between us in
mid air. I froze, heart pounding again. Well maybe you
would just know what I wanted and make love to me and it
wouldn't be as awkward as before. But maybe you would just
wonder why I woke you in the middle of the night. I took
back my hand and felt sad, rather incapable. Time passed.
I felt I was lost, drifting somewhere. Inch by inch I stretched
out and slowed my breathing down to match yours. After a
while, I fell into a restless sleep.

-- Thoughts from July, 1980
A night with my first lover
J.



Physical Therapist

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continued from page 1

I think I speak for most bisexuals when I say we are proud to be allies and lovers of gays and lesbians. But we are also proud of our bisexual identity. Bi's, both in and out of the closet, have put time, money and energy into securing gay liberation since the beginning of the movement. And we'll continue to do that - both independently, from within our own growing bi movement, and together, with you, through gay and lesbian political groups, visibility campaigns, pride marches, arrests, and so on - to bring an end to the oppression that damages us all.

The Bisexual Contingent of Lesbian & Gay Pride '88 welcomes all bisexuals and their friends to march with us on this great day!

Lucy Friedland
for the Boston Bisexual Women's Network
and for the Boston Bisexual Men's Network



P.S.: HOORAY! For the first time ever there will be a BI person officially speaking at Boston's Gay Pride Festival. Our own ROBYN OCHS will address the crowd on issues of Bisexuality!!!

Profuse and special thanks are due to SHARLA CLOS. Sharla (proud BBWN member) has been serving unstintingly on the Steering Committee of Boston's Pridefest. She started out by writing articles for local newspapers, moved up to dealing with T-shirts & buttons for stores and clubs, and has ended up doing major PR work for the event. Sharla has also written the dedication piece for the Pridefest (no small feat indeed!!!)

We also wish to send kudos & thanks to SHARON GONSALVES for writing & submitting the proposal to have a Bi speaker at the Pride Rally, and to LUCY FRIEDLAND for writing the Pride Program info about the Bi Community (this issue's cover story!)

Their work has enhanced Bi visibility at this event and we thank them ALL very, very much!!!

-Laura



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Write Us!

about:

- Pride March
- Working on the
Names Quilt
- What I did on
my summer Vacation

Don't Be Shy!

LETTER FROM NEWSWEEK

MARGARET MEAD
AND BISEXUALITY

Dear Reader:

We appreciate the concern that prompted your letter regarding Newsweek's Health piece "A Perilous Double Love Life." Like you, a number of reader's were disappointed by this article, and we're grateful for the opportunity to address these objections, although we can't do so individually.

First, we must emphasize that we were looking at bisexuality solely in the context of the disturbing consensus among health professionals that bisexuals are "among the most likely potential conduits for the spread of AIDS to heterosexuals." Bisexuality has not been the subject of comprehensive study, and relatively little is known about its nature and psychology, or even its extent. Therefore, speculation and "worst case" scenarios on the role bisexuals might conceivably play in the spread of AIDS usually center on closeted male bisexuals. But many who wrote us felt it was irresponsible to focus on these individuals, saying that such a limited discussion not only suggest that most bisexuals are reckless or indifferent to the threat of AIDS, but also ignores the fact that bisexuality is a viable and fulfilling expression of sexuality for many men and women. Labeling bisexuals "ultimate pariahs", they told us, and generalizing about, in the words of one reader "outdated and tenuous theories" on the nature of bisexuality, can only contribute to further regression from openness among bisexuals. Though we hope you'll understand that, as a general-interest newsweekly serving a broad readership, we cannot duplicate the sort of coverage available in journals such as Human Sexuality, we are sorry if you feel our report did an injustice to bisexuals. We do hope you saw the letter from Robyn Ochs of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network that appeared in our Aug. 3 letters column, raising several of these points. We'd also like you to know that copies of your letter were passed along to our Health editor and placed in our permanent files. Again, while we regret that our article distressed you, we are glad that you took the time to let us know of your objections.

Sincerely,
Christine Deschamps
For the Editors

The above "Letter from Newsweek" was supposedly sent to persons who had written in response to the infamous "Ultimate Pariah" article that we are all so fond of (finger down throat time for me ladies!) I found it to be particularly fascinating that Robyn never received one and that this was actually brought to my attention by Lucy Friedland. Doubletalk, rationalization, and general B.S. seem to be the rule at Newsweek.

- Laura

"(Margaret) continued throughout her life to affirm the possibility of many kinds of love, with both men and women, rejecting neither, and she went through her life not with a sense of impoverishment but with a zestful sense of asking for more, for experience enriched and intensified, sometimes exhausting to those she spent time with, impatient of all possessiveness and jealousy. Through the major part of her adult life, she sustained an intimate relationship with a man and another with a woman. This double pattern must have been satisfying and sustaining, but at the same time it created a kind of isolation, an isolation of secrecy.

.....She clearly believed that the keeping of these secrets was correct and responsible behavior.

....She spoke of the pleasures of similarity and the pleasures of contrast, of relationships with women as providing the comfort of the known and relationships with men as always containing the element of arbitrary and mysterious difference.

....Bisexuality is most often acknowledged in the recognition that preferences may change serially, with one period of life devoted to explorations of relationships exclusively with one sex and another with the other, for we live in a society which mandates choice, at least for the moment. Even as we begin to permit differences in sexual preference, we ask individuals to align themselves one way or the other. It was this process of labeling that she rejected most of all.

...There seems to me to be a connection between the openness that meant that she did not have to affirm the present good or the present choice as the only possible choice, and the openness to different ways of life and thought that was essential to her anthropological work.

Today what seems furthest from our habitual ideas is her belief in the possibility of sustaining more than one deeply loving intimacy at a time. There is a conviction in our culture that real love is exclusive, preferably for a lifetime. So deep is this belief that when we wish to defend homosexual preferences we frequently point to the possibility of sustained pairing. She said to me as a child, 'You may someday find yourself feeling that you are in love with two people and think that that is impossible. If two people are really different you can indeed be in love with both.'

-- excerpted from the book *With a Daughter's Eye*, a memoir of the life of Margaret Mead (and husband, Gregory Bateson) by daughter, Mary Catherine Bateson, Washington Square Press, 1984.



Join the newsletter
staff! call us at:
BIS-MOVE.



June 1 (WED) PAT HUMPHRIES, Singer/Songwriter; JIM VETTER: The Gay Aristocrat - combining mime, theatre, and magic in a story of gay romance; Both perform at Club Cabaret at Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. 7:30pm, Tickets \$8.00, A benefit for the Names Project.

June 4 (Sat) BOSTON GAY MEN'S CHORUS & THE NYC GAY MEN'S CHORUS perform at the Orpheum (Boston), Tickets \$24, \$18, \$12, \$9, 8:00pm, Call 787-5000 for information, ASL interpreted.

June 5 (Sun) FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, Boston's Annual 10K Pledge-Walk to raise \$\$\$\$ for the fight against AIDS! Sponsored by the Aids Action Committee, Start at the Boston Common, low cost b-fast served @ 8am, The walk begins @ 10am, and will conclude w/free picnic lunch @ the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade. Call the "Walk Line" at 266-6906 or Contact AAC's Liz Page or Richard Giglio @ 437-6200 ext. 214 or 251.

June 5 (Sun) DANCE N.O.W., after the AIDS walk, a benefit for Boston N.O.W. at Somewhere Else, 8:00pm-1:00am, \$5 Donation. Call 782-1056 for more information.

June 6 (Mon) BBWN INTRODUCTORY MEETING, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Square, 7:30pm. Come find out about the Network and theories of Bisexuality. ALL WOMEN WELCOME! TELL YOUR FRIENDS!! 247-6683 for info.

*** June 11 (Sat) BBWN'S 5TH ANNUAL PRE-MARCH BRUNCH! (Sorry we goofed last issue when we called it the 4th). At the Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston, 9:00-11:00am, \$3, see front page.

June 11 (Sat) BOSTON'S GAY PRIDE MARCH starts at 12 noon from the City Hall Plaza. Step out PROUDLY with the BBWN CONTINGENT! Wear your BISEXUAL PRIDE T-SHIRTS & BUTTONS (yes we'll have them this year) and be totally in fashion! See front page for where to meet. See ya there!!

June 17-18 (Fri/Sat) TWO IN TWENTY, A LESBIAN SOAP OPERA is back! 6/17 Episodes 1,2,3; 6/18 Episodes 4,5. Sanders Theatre, Harvard Square, 8pm. Tickets \$8.50/night, \$15/both nights, \$10/door/night. Call 625-7882 for info. Theatre is wheelchair accessible, bathrooms aren't, videos are closed captioned.

June 16-19 NAMES PROJECT: THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT comes to Boston. On Display at the Boston Park Plaza Castle, 50 Park Plaza, near Arlington & Stewart Streets. Call 451-9003 for more info.

THE NAMES PROJECT

June 19 (Sun) SUMMER FESTIVAL w/HOLLY NEAR, THE ROCHES, LEON REDBONE, TOM PAXTON, GUY CLARK, at the DeCordova Museum Amphitheatre, 12 noon & 6pm. For more info call Folktree Concert Line 641-1010.

June 20 (Mon) BICEP, First meeting, 7:30pm, Harvard Yard, Boylston Hall, Room 2B. See page 2 for details.

June 24 (Fri) LAURA BERKSON, singer/songwriter/guitarist. Performs at the Modern Times Cafe, 134 Hampshire St., Cambridge, 8-9pm, Call 354-8371 for more information.

June 25 (Sat) BBWN/BBMN MONTHLY DIM SUM BRUNCH. Join us for food, fun, and conversation. Meet under the arch in Chinatown @ 10:45am, average cost \$6-8/person. Women & Men welcome. Call 247-6683 if you have questions.

June 26 (Sun) SAN FRANCISCO LESBIAN & GAY FREEDOM DAY PARADE!

June 26 (Sun) NEW YORK GAY PRIDE PARADE!

June 27 (Mon) BBWN VOLUNTEER NIGHT, A record turnout last month. How lovely to see new faces! A non-stuff evening of network biz to accomplish. Come on in and check us out. At Robyn's, call 247-6683 leave name & number, we'll call back w/directions, 7:30pm.

June 27 (Mon) AUGUST/SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE. We'll be boo-hooing if we don't hear from YOU!

June 30 (Thur) BOSTON N.O.W. FUNDRAISER, commemorate the 6th anniversary of the End of the ERA Extension. Call 782-1056 for details.

July 2-3 (Sat/Sun) SISTERFIRE, 6TH ANNIVERSARY, An open-air, Multi-Cultural Festival of Women Artists. 11:00am-7:00pm, Call 202-234-9308 for info. Sisterfire, 1475 Harvard St. NW, Washington, DC 20009 (See pg. 10 of SOJOURNER, May 1988 issue)

July 9 (Sat) JEAN KROPPER & ANDREW BUIST GET MARRIED!! (Taah,ta,ta taah. Taah, ta,ta, taah. Taah, ta,ta,ta,ta,ta...(you get the idea) (Don't worry gals - she's keeping her own name!) WE LOVE YOU JEAN!!!!

July 11 (Mon) BBWN COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING, At 7:00pm, Boylston Hall, Room 2B, Harvard Yard. Again how great to see new faces! be informed or help keep us informed!! We want to hear from YOU! ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME! Call 247-6683 if you have questions.

July 23 (Sat) BBWN/BBMN MONTHLY DIM SUM BRUNCH, see details of June 25.

July 25 (Mon) BBWN VOLUNTEER NIGHT, Surprise, Surprise (are you surprised?) tonight we serve Newsletter Stuffing a la crepes (or is that chocolate mousse pie?) August/September vintage. Come to Robyn's International House of Newsletters 7:30pm and we will gladly escort you to your table, sponges will be provided! JOIN THE FUN!!

Aug. 1 (Mon) BBWN INTRODUCTORY MEETING, see description of June 6th.

Aug. 5-7 (Fri/Sun) E.C.B.N.'S. 4TH ANNUAL BISEXUAL SUMMER RETREAT, at Another Place, Greenville, NH. See enclosed flyer or call 247-6683 if you have questions, don't forget to leave your name & number.



Bi Women

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 4, 1988

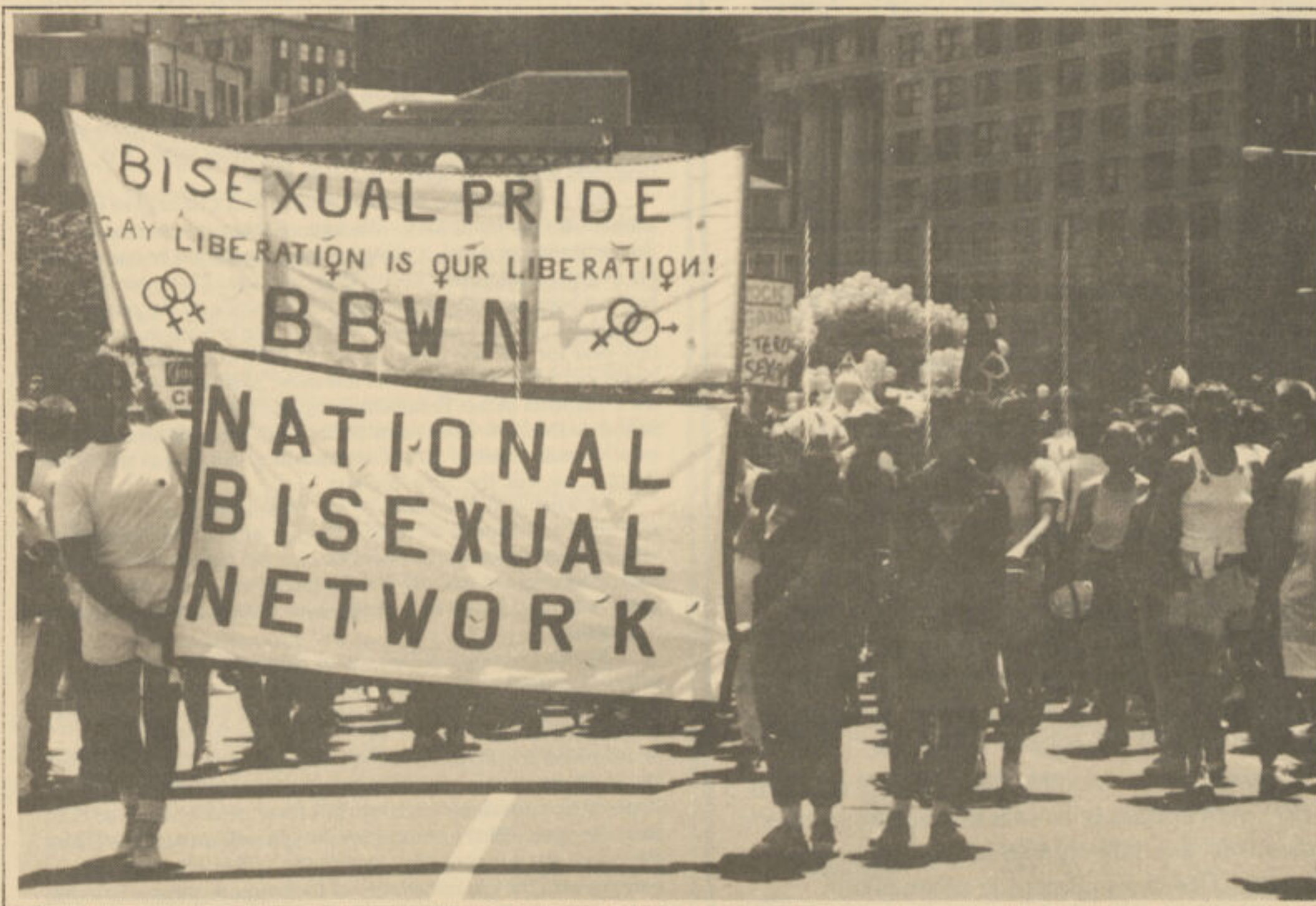


Photo: Laura Sachs

RIGHTFULLY PROUD

SATURDAY JUNE 11, 1988

by Rebecca Gorlin

Saturday, June 11, 1988. My seventh Lesbian/Gay Pride. Not so unusual except that this was my first as a bisexual. I had celebrated my six previous Prides as a lesbian and, although I felt proud and strong, deep down I sensed that I was not telling my whole story. This year I began to deal with my bisexuality and to be proud of it. This year's Pride made me feel prouder and stronger than ever because I was finally ready to tell my whole story. I didn't have to deny or be ashamed of either side of myself--woman-loving

cont. on pg. 4

HOW I SPENT MY SPRING VACATION

OR

"WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO WORK ON THE BOSTON LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE COMMITTEE"

By: Sharla D. Clos

I can still recall my fears the first time I stepped into Room 801 of City Hall that Thursday evening. To begin with I was under the impression that the meeting started at 7:30 thanks to an error in the local newspaper. Therefore the entrance and introduction I had planned on making to the few people waiting had ended up being made to the entire meeting (which I might add was underway) during my initial thoughts of whether or not to go for it, I had considered the factor that I would be openly bisexual and advocate bisexuality on the committee. This was my biggest fear they would say something like "This is the

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The newsletter of The Boston Bisexual Women's Network

P.O. Box 639 Cambridge, MA 02140

2 Coordinating Committee

CC MEETING MINUTES, MAY 9, 1988

Present: Rebecca G., Heidi F., Lucy F., Ann G., Ellen Brenner, Faith Z., Robyn Ochs, Laura Sachs, Jackie Stoll.

The following decisions were made:



- 5) Robyn Ochs will speak at the Rally after the march. (HOORAY, HOORAY!!!!!! (see pg. 5)
 - 6) **NEWSLETTER:** a committee of five is needed to take on the task of producing the newsletter (please call BIS-MOVE, 247-6683 and leave your name and number).
 - 7) To place an ongoing notice looking for volunteers in the newsletter.
 - 8) **RETREAT:** the annual Bi Networks retreat will be Aug. 5-7, VOLUNTEERS are needed for on-site registration and other jobs. Please call BIS-MOVE and leave name and number.
 - 10) **TREASURER:** BBWN is in need of a volunteer to take on the task of treasurer for a limited time.
 - 11) **IN REACH:** there will be a picnic at the MDC park (across from Channel 4 on Soldiers Field Road) Sept. 10th for ALL B. B. W. N. MEMBERS! (for women only). See page 10 for details.
 - 12) To send out a bi-monthly flyer, **BBWN ACTION LETTER**, with update of events and volunteer needs to those who have volunteered and/or been active in the past. This is an attempt to address the problem of burnout among over burdened members!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
 - 13) To try to develop a better phone tree from responses to **BBWN ACTION LETTER**.
 - 14) To not be superstitious about the number 13. (The editor is quasi-superstitious as this was typed the night of a full moon: "Do, do, do, do, do do, do, do" - Twilight Zone theme.)
- Submitted by Jackie Stoll
(Edited by Laura Sachs)



F. Y. I. (FOR YOUR INFORMATION):

THE FIRST ANNUAL PHIL OCHS SONG NIGHT!

Thursday, Oct. 6, at the Cambridge Rindge & Latin Auditorium, 459 Broadway, Cambridge. (Wheelchair accessible.)
Featuring: Magpie, Kim and Reggie Harris, Charlie King and Martha Leader, Dennis Pearne and Marienne Krietlow.
Tickets: \$8.00/advance, \$10.00/door, \$5.00/low-income.
For more info, contact Patty Huntington at 863-0484.

Meeting Minutes

Coordinating Committee Minutes - July 11, 1988

In attendance were Lucy F. (facilitator), Heather, Robyn O., Heidi F., and Laura S. Heidi announced that the first Shabbat evening of the Jewish Bisexual Group was a big success. The group is mixed, men and women. They will continue to meet the 2nd Friday of every month. [The next dinner is August 12 - see Calendar.] Heather reported that the 17 people who went to the BBMN-sponsored Dim Sum had a great time. The brunches are also held on a monthly basis.

We evaluated the Bisexual Brunch and Contingent of Lesbian & Gay Pride Day. We agreed that next year, towards the beginning of April, a planning meeting should be convened for everyone interested in working on Pride. This year there had not been enough communication between all the people working on various aspects of the day. The brunch made money this year for the first time. [Many thanks to Charman!] Laura has about 12 Bi Pride T-shirts left over. She will order 40 more from Autumn in San Francisco to replace the 17 which were resold to the New York Area Bi Network (at cost) and the 23 which never arrived. The T-shirts will go on sale at the EBN Retreat, as will the Safe Sex kits.

No change in the status of the Treasurer's position. We still need a volunteer to relieve Sharon of her responsibilities, which require only about 1 hour of time per month. [If you can help, please get in touch!] We agreed to put out a call at the next Volunteer Night and, at the same time, ask for more phone volunteers.

At this point we talked about "inreach," i.e., how to improve communication among BBWN members and involve more of them in the care and feeding of the Network. Jackie's project to start mailings to BBWN activists (in-between newsletters) is still in the works. We agreed to put a notice in the newsletter about registering support groups. We need to know their sizes, how many are out there, and whether or not they are open. We hope support groups will contact BBWN by filling out the coupon. This registering will not in any way compromise the confidentiality of the support groups, but will open channels of communication. We talked about increasing the frequency of CC Meetings, but Robyn and Laura said that that had been attempted in 1986 and 1987 with poor results. We agreed to place "inreach" on the agenda again for the next CC meeting.

Laura reported on the Retreat planning. She had renegotiated the contract with Another Place. The new arrangement enables us to offer Retreat goers a sliding scale that doesn't take funds away from the Network. [Good goin', Laura!] We will need volunteers for on-site to help with registration and to work with the staff of Another Place.

Laura is setting up a meeting time for people who would like to work on the newsletter. She is willing to train in all aspects of newsletter production. She is putting together an instructional brochure to demystify the process. Robyn suggested that BBWN provide \$10 for munchies for newsletter production meetings. We all liked that idea.

--Minutes submitted by Lucy Friedland.



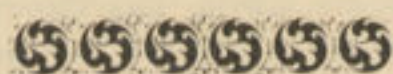
DON'T MISS THE PICNIC!!
See Calendar Sept. 10th!



The Bisexual Committee Engaging in Politics (BiCEP) held its first meeting on June 20. Twelve participants attended, including BBWN and BBMN members and people who had heard about the meeting through Pride Day publicity. Discussion centered around purpose, projects and process.

The meeting began with a brief overview of the BBWN, BBMN, ECBN, and the new NoAmBN. The networks originated as an all-inclusive, safe space for bisexuals, and have thus tended to avoid politics. The group will try to determine how a politically focused bi group could best complement and work with existing groups. BiCEP was envisioned as being a local, mixed group allowing for flexibility of action. The bi component of this year's Pride March was very noticeable and highly empowering; it is hoped that BiCEP can create a presence at a variety of events in the future.

The aims and purposes of BiCEP were extensively discussed, including whether the group should concern itself with "progressive/left" issues, and the breadth of focus. Brainstorming on purposes and aims resulted in the following ideas: increasing awareness and visibility of bis, dispelling myths and stereotypes about bis, encouraging acceptance of a spectrum of lifestyle options and sexual and family relationships, working for full equality, and linking diverse causes and struggles. There was much discussion of how BiCEP could support other struggles; examples mentioned included racism, sexism, classism, ability, ageism, and political causes such as non-intervention and disarmament. The group discussed whether to list these causes in order to make an explicit commitment to include and support them, or to not list in order to avoid leaving out some group or cause and to steer clear of alienating political disagreements.



Potential projects discussed included working with lesbian/gay rights and AIDS action groups, engaging in guerilla theatre, radical art, and promoting education by writing articles and letters.

Finally, the group discussed process and how BiCEP might be organized. Discussion centered on the decision-making process. Consensus and majority-rule voting were mentioned as possible options. Potential problems were discussed, including the "least common denominator" tendency of consensus decision-making, the potential for a tyranny, and the need for decision-making efficiency. It was stressed that the interests of dissenting individuals and minorities should be recognized and integrated into group decisions. The group agreed that the procedure should not be overly formal and should allow for maximum flexibility. A basic scheme was proposed on a trial basis in which the group would normally vote but would use a consensus procedure for especially controversial issues.

The issue of collectivity and the need for shared responsibility were stressed. The group should be leaderless, with a rotation of duties. Every member of the collective is equally important, and an effort should be made to get the input and ideas of everyone, especially those who are not as comfortable expressing their views.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 28 at 7:15pm. There will also be a meeting on August 23rd at the same time. Meetings will be held in Room 2B of Boylston Hall at Harvard.

More Minutes from BiCEP

In attendance at the June 28th meeting were 10 women and 1 man: Diane C., Liz Nania, Beth (facilitator), Liz H., Lucy Friedland (minutes), Sharon G., Phred, Rebecca, Zachary, Marjorie and Sheryl. Again, the agenda included process, purpose and projects.

People were still happy with the procedure for decision making that we had agreed upon at the first meeting. We restated our commitment to working as a collective and being as inclusive as possible. We agreed to ensure that everyone's voices and viewpoints are heard and that a couple of people don't dominate the group.

The "purpose" discussion revolved around whether to list the "isms" (sexism, racism, heterosexism, ageism, classism, and able-bodyism) in BiCEP's Statement of Purpose as oppressions that concern us. Although everyone concurred that we are dedicated to working on these issues, not everyone wanted to list them explicitly. Liz H. and Phred volunteered to draft the Statement for the group and bring it back for further discussion.

Then, we brainstormed about projects that BiCEP would like to take on. We came up with 22 different proposals. Some of these involve bridge-building with the lesbian/gay community; some outreach other, more traditionally neglected communities; and others relate to debunking myths and stereotypes about bisexuals among lesbians, gays and heterosexuals. A project list is available from Lucy. [Call BIS-MOVE.] We agreed to research the various options for the next meeting (July 12) and prioritize them.

HAPPY 5th BIRTHDAY BBWN!!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU,
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU,
HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR BBWN,
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

(I guess we're old enough to go to kindergarten now.) Love, Laura.
(Article to follow next issue, we'll provide the untold story!)



MERYL L. WOLPER, LICSW

FEMINIST PSYCHOTHERAPY WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR

Lesbian, Bisexual, Heterosexual

617-964-3448

Sliding Scale

Ins. Accepted

or man-loving. Lesbian/Gay Pride was the culmination of my second coming out.

My day began with the BBWN brunch. The bagels and fruit salad were good and I had never talked to so many people in just a couple of hours! Seeing so many of us bisexuals in one room together reminded me of my first time in a lesbian bar--I thought, Wow, so many of us all together, and, Where have you been all my life?

Then we all walked together to the march, many of us (myself included) fashionably attired in newly-designed black or white "Bisexual Pride" T-shirts, plus "Bisexual Pride" and/or gay/lesbian buttons. Then we lined up and took off! As we went along, we sang "When the Bis Go Marching By" (Sorry, gang, even our changes of lyrics don't change my loathing of this sickeningly patriotic song.) and chanted, "Seven-eight-nine-ten, we love women, we love men!" There were signs saying, "Hi Mom", "Gay Liberation Is Our Liberation" and "We Are Not Fence-Sitters, We Are Bridge Builders." I held one that said, "We Are Not Confused, We Are Bisexual." That sign meant a lot to me because, although I'd learned by then that bisexuality is a positive reality and not a perpetual state of confusion, I had been confused until a few months ago.

It was also very affirming to hear so many onlookers applauding our contingent and making supportive remarks such as, "It's about time you

came out!" as we marched by. They were saying, "It's okay to be bisexual" and I needed to hear that. It made me see that the lesbian and gay community has slowly become more accepting of us. I don't believe we would have received so much support a few years ago. I'm glad they're starting to smarten up because we're part of the lesbian and gay community, too, and we all need to work together to fight our common oppressors.

This year's Pride left me with many feelings. I wished more of us (eventually from around the world) would come out and march because we need to be visible to both the gay and straight worlds; and to have our needs and issues addressed--not just be a token topic in a meeting or the subject of lies, ridicule, and, worst of all, silence. I was proud to march with my gay brothers and lesbian sisters as well as my bisexual ones, and I want to continue to do so, but some day I hope enough of us bisexuals come out and get our act together so that we can have our own Bisexual Pride March. Most of all, I felt more than my usual Pride Day high because I was finally expressing my true Pride--my BISEXUAL pride.



HOW I SPENT MY SPRING VACATION

from page 1

Boston Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee, remember" or other hints of sarcasm. What I experienced however, blew me away. As I entered the room, I said "Hi, My Name is Sharla, I'm Bi and I'm here to work on the committee, after a short round of applause, they showed me to a seat and we went through a round of introductions and representations of what groups people were from. More positives were heard following the meeting as some people said things like "I think Bisexuality is a wonderful concept" and "I live with one", etc. and then one of the women invited me to go to Somewhere Else.

Although I was the only bisexual it was a warm reception from everyone present on the committee. There were a few minor obstacles during the season with one individual but were based on his personal life and a bad experience with a bisexual and not on the committee issues. I even managed to end this relationship in friendship after one routy discussion on the "T" in which I told him his concept of bisexuality was screwed because he was saying we couldn't make up our minds. He now has a better understanding of our identity and we are friends.

The work itself is time consuming and stressful but yet I enjoyed it, especially on June 11th, when there was an obvious feeling of success among the committee members.

cont. on pg. 5



Photo: Laura Sachs

The procedure of the meetings at first was to have people volunteer for things they liked and later to delegate those items that nobody would take on.

I took on a big job of first setting up appointments for people at stores who wanted T-Shirts and Buttons and later became the public relations coordinator in charge of news releases and setting up a press conference which unfortunately due to timing was not quite as successful as we would have liked, although Bay Windows and GCN came and agreed that we all had put a lot of time and work into it and that it was the straight press who made it unsuccessful not the Pride Committee. In addition to the news representatives, David Scoundras, Joe Williams and others attended and spoke. We even invited Gov. Michael Dukakis but due to the recent illness of Kitty, he didn't have time to attend the conference or the rally.

At any rate, I hope to have a few co-committee members from the men and women's network next year. Although the committee was very accepting, I had a very successful year on the committee and left with a circle of new friends, it still sometimes became very lonely at the Bi level and at times I wondered if I was doing the right thing, I wondered had Bisexuals avoided the committee on purpose or what, because others from our community seemed to have no interest in the organization or at least fears of being unaccepted and if you don't try you will never be accepted (not until June 11 anyway & then WOW!!! what a BI!! Contingent!!)

The biggest surprise ever came, when to end the year the Pride Committee took the members and their better 1/2's out for dinner, this came as a big surprise when the Co-Coordinator told me to be sure and invite Bob. We went and everyone had a great time, everyone accepted Bob and I as a couple, we had a wonderful dinner and now we are breaking for the month of July, (not Bob & I, the Committee) (Sorry Ladies!) the 1989 committee will be starting up in August and I hope to see a few familiar faces on that committee.

Thanks - Have A Wonderful Summer and I'll see you soon!!!

and

Good Luck - Jean and Andrew

Sharla D. Clos
Public Relations Coordinator
Boston Lesbian & Gay Pride Committee



TEXT OF SPEECH GIVEN BY ROBYN OCHS AT BOSTON GAY PRIDE ON JUNE 11, 1988

I am so proud to be part of our gay, lesbian and bisexual community. I love and respect our diversity, our creativity, our resiliency, and especially our courage. As a bisexual activist since 1983, I have grown increasingly aware of the need for coalition building because we are such a large and diverse community.

On behalf of the 900 members of the Boston Bisexual Women's and Men's Networks and the East Coast Bisexual



Photo: Laura Sachs

AN HERSTORIC MOMENT!

Network, I say to you, loud and clear, that WE ARE HERE! We are here. We are with you, and we are part of you.

Some people say that bisexuals are not oppressed because at least we are accepted by mainstream society when we are involved with members of the opposite sex. Indeed, society may like us when we show only the heterosexual part of who we are. But, as anyone who has ever been in the closet knows all too well, conditional, partial acceptance is not really acceptance at all. When we show the other side, our gay side, we suffer the same discrimination as all gay men and lesbians. Bisexuals don't lose only half of our children in custody battles. When homophobia strikes, we don't get just half fired from our jobs. We don't get just half gaybashed when we are out with our same sex lovers (We can't say: oh, please just hit me on my left side - I'm bisexual!). We too suffer from homophobia BECAUSE WE ARE GAY.

The banner of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network says "Gay liberation is our liberation." And gay liberation IS our liberation! Together we MUST work to pass the Massachusetts gay rights bill. Together we must work to end discrimination against people with AIDS. Together we must work to create a society in which we can all live proudly, openly, without the fear of losing our jobs, our children, or our lives. To accomplish this we need ALL our allies, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and heterosexual. TOGETHER we are powerful. And many bisexuals are with you here today. We're proud to be here. We belong here. And we will continue to stand with you, our community, every step of the way.

RULES FOR REMEMBERING MY MOTHER

Don't think of her as a ghost
flitting in and out
from home to hospital, then home again.
Forget the chill felt
as dressings are changed,
tossed casually into paper bags,
put out with the garbage.
Remember the playing cards,
the doll quilts and foliage tours
that are pushed aside by images of
the wasted woman I knew so well.



Hello all -

I have been trying to write a piece for you but have run up against all manner of problems (like an operation, final papers, family health problems) that have kept me frazzled. Oh well.

Today is Rhode Island's PRIDE march also. I am dying to be there but know that at this time I cannot afford, personally, to come out, and be there. RI news stations always make a big deal of the march and always pan the audience with their cameras. I can only imagine my family's reaction if I was seen there. It's terrible, this fear. Yet I know I can comfortably sign my name to this letter and to the enclosed poem which I submit for your consideration and know no fear of recrimination. I hope you can use the poem and hope that you would want to use this letter. You may use my full name. Also, if you could say that I would love to hear from bi women here in RI or anywhere, I'd be much obliged.

Best, Lin Collette

Lin,

Thank you for your letter and your poem. My grandmother's birthday is on July 4th. She died four years ago of cancer and your poem helped me to try to remember the good times we had before her illness, not just the last 4 years of her life. Thank you. I marched in pride this year with BBWN for the first time in 4 years and your inability to march saddened me. Marching with the network this year made me feel so good - so proud. I wish you could feel these things too. Maybe next year you might come up to Boston and march with us where you would be very anonymous and hopefully feel safer. Thanks again. Betty A.

Anyone wishing to contact Lin can do so at: Linda R. Collette, P.O. Box 1774, Pawtucket, RI., 02862.

Dear BBWN,

Just finished reading your April/May newsletter and feel inspired to write.

First of all thank you for a great newsletter, for all your high energy, hard working members and most of all, for your leadership! The world is changing, bit by bit, and you are playing a vital part in that change. You have also played a vital part in my own personal growth and change, and I thank you. My other reason for writing is to pass on some info which you probably already have, but it gives me a chance to share a moment from my life.

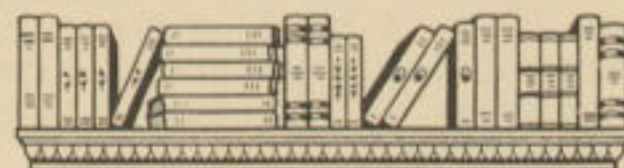
I am currently a student (at Antioch/New England in Keene, NH.) working on a masters in Dance Movement Therapy with a concentration in counseling Psychology. Last month I attended a one credit weekend workshop titled, "Psychological Issues for Lesbians and Gay Men." This was taught by Sarah Pearlman, a lesbian from the Boston area and part-time teacher at Antioch. She is also a therapist in private practice, a doctoral student and lots of other things. She has a wealth of information and does a great job of conveying it.

The point I'm getting to is that one of the books she recommended students buy for this course is, Lesbian Psychologies: Explanations and Challenges, edited by the Boston Lesbian Psychologies Collective (University of Illinois Press, Urbana & Chicago, 1987). (Sarah is one of the editors). Chapter 3 is titled, "Sexuality as a Continuum: The Bisexual Identity," and was written by [REDACTED]. It's a great chapter and was more enjoyable for me because of its' numerous references to Robyn Ochs and the BBWN newsletter (issues from 1984).

I recommend spreading the word about this book to your membership (unless you think they already know about it). Thanks again for everything!

Love, Schultz

P.S. Dear Boston area readers: I located the above mentioned book in New Words Bookstore in Cambridge, as well as Wordsworth Bookstore in Harvard Square, Cambridge (where I personally bought two copies and got a very warm smile from the woman who rang up my purchases) -- Laura, Editor



For Your Information:

7

DISSERTATION INFORMATION:

For all BBWN members looking for the following:
Dr. Regina Reinhardt's doctoral thesis:
"Bisexual Women in Heterosexual Relationships"
This should be listed under Dissertation
Abstracts 1985 in university or large city
libraries. Dr. Reinhardt's dissertation is
copyrighted (on microfilm) through University
Microfilm International. If you are unable
to locate her work please contact Dr. Reinhardt
at: Dr. Regina Reinhardt, 4305 Gesner St.,
Suite 214, San Diego, CA 92117
(619)259-8019



If you are looking for Dr. Maggi Rubenstein's
thesis, "Bisexuality and Androgyny: An
Investigative Study", or her doctoral
dissertation, "An In-Depth Study of Bisexuality
and Its Relationship to Self-Esteem", please
contact her directly. Please write her at:
Dr. Maggi Rubenstein, 1525 Franklin St.,
San Francisco, CA 94109, or call her at
(415)928-1133 Monday-Friday Pacific Coast Time
and leave a specific message as to why you're
calling.

o o o o o o o o

The THIRD BIENNIAL UNITY & DIVERSITY CONFERENCE
will be taking place October 7-9, 1988. The
theme for this year's conference is "Wellness in
our Community." This event is being co-sponsored
by the Hampshire College Women's Center. Location:
Hampshire College, Amherst, MA. For more info &
registration form, please send SASE to: Unity &
Diversity, PO BOX 662, Hadley, MA 01035. Members
from the BBWN/BBMN Speakers Bureau will be giving
workshops at this Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual event!!!

o o o o o o o o

BISEXUAL JEWISH GROUP NOW FORMING! (OY VEY!)

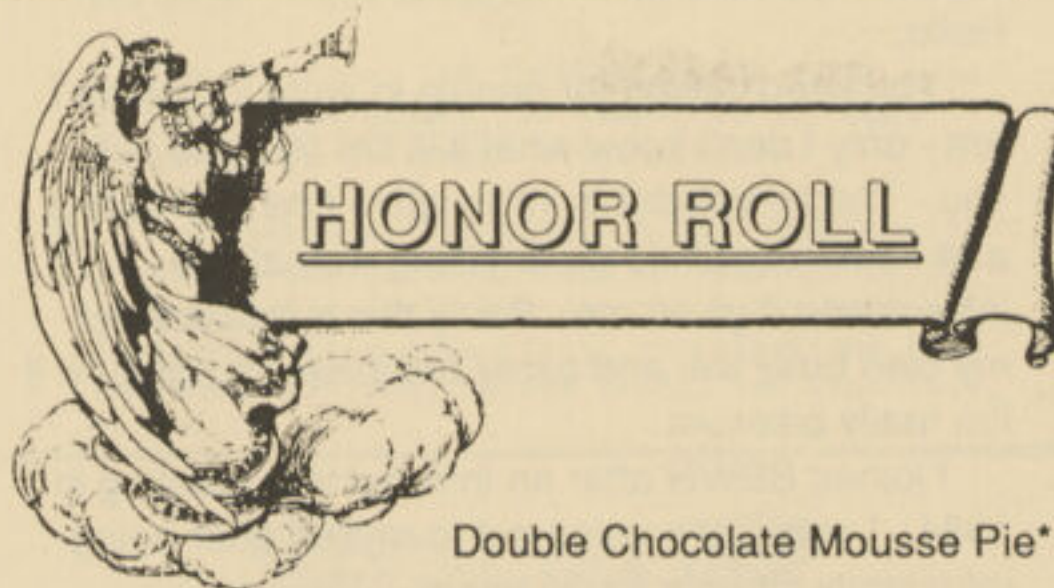
We welcome new members (women and men) and
your ideas. Come to a dairy-vegetarian pot-
luck Shabbat dinner the 2nd Friday of every
month. Songs, discussions, good times!
*NEXT GET-TOGETHERS: Aug. 12, Sept. 9 (location
to be announced). Call BIS-MOVE and leave
messages for either Heidi or Rebecca. We
need name and day and evening phone numbers.
All return calls will be discreet! SHALOM!

o o o o o o o o

TELEPHONE (617) 498-9923

BET MACARTHUR, ACSW LICSW
COUNSELING, PSYCHOTHERAPY
CONSULTATION & TRAINING

14 PLEASANT ST.
CENTRAL SQUARE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139



Double Chocolate Mousse Pie*

thanks to the following nifty, peachy keen women for
energy & time generously given to the BBWN during the
months of May and June, 1988:

Beth W.	Jackie S.	M.C.D.
Prithy K.	Robyn O.	Betty A.
Ann G.	Sue W.	Pam L.
Pepper G.	Lisa W.	Sharla C.
Sharon G.	Ellen B.	Nina C.
Rebecca G.	Heidi F.	Jean K.
Marjorie B.	Lucy F.	Kate H.
Charnan B.	Faith Z.	Laura S.

**This is a spectacular, sinfully delicious dessert
which I happen to love; and can be found in the
wilds of Cambridge, MA--Laura*

Ongoing: Every Wednesday, 7:30pm, AL-ANON GROUP
FOR BISEXUAL ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS. An
Al-Anon meeting for Bi ACOA meets Wednesday nights
at Mass. General Hospital, lower amphitheater
(next to emergency entrance). For more info &
directions call Marge (617) 259-1559.

ATTENTION-SUPPORT GROUPS:

We are trying to get some idea of how many support groups
are out there and whether they're open for referrals. If you
are in a support group, please do us the favor of sending
the following information:

- Support Group Name (if any) _____
- How often do you meet _____
- How many members _____
- Are you open or closed to new members _____
- Brief Description _____
- Contact Person(s) _____
and phone #'s _____
- Founding Date _____

Please fill this out and return to: BBWN, Attn: Robyn, P.O. Box 639,
Cambridge, MA 02140, or call BIS-MOVE! THANKS VERY MUCH!

Hello,

You keep asking for people to write in and so I am - only I don't know what it is I'm trying to tell you. The newsletter is informative and interesting, and I never seem to do anything with all the information it gives me. Partly this is because of my own busy life, and partly because I'm not sure if I'm really bisexual.

I joined BBWN after an Introductory meeting in 1984. I was just coming out to myself after being reluctantly straight for 30 years. I joined a support group, made a few close friends, and continued to drift towards women. I tried living up to the label bisexual. Men were, and are, the problem though: my own personal psychological history (not enough nurturance from Mom - is there ever enough?), maybe the all girls high school, being "pretty" and therefore continuously objectified my entire life, all these factors and more have pushed me to just be more comfortable with women. I don't really dislike men - I just don't feel at ease in their company, even with most gay men. Of course I have a few close male friends, but only a very few. So mostly I do feel confused. I'm not a separatist yet I live most of my life that way.

So what am I? I don't like the label lesbian either - I think because it has political implications for me. I feel stuck in myself, and yet most of the time I'm fairly happy about it. I'm currently in the best relationship of my life, with a very committed lesbian. I don't know where I'm going. I still enjoy reading about the bisexual community, so basically this is to say keep up the good work! and please don't mind me if I'm not labeled.

- Appropriately anonymous



Quote of the month:

Quote (slightly barbecued) from **GOLDEN GIRLS**, 9pm, Saturday, Ch. 4:

Rose (Betty White): (talking about a job promotion):
I have to become bilingual to get the job.

Blanche (Rue McClanahan): Oh, Rose don't, no job is worth having to sleep with a woman.

Dorothy (Beatrice Arthur): She said bilingual, not bisexual!!!!

Dear BBWN,

It's time again to share my view of the Hartford, CT bi scene.

The Greater Hartford Bisexual, Lesbian, and Gay Community Center is thriving and growing, with a board of directors that is about 2/3 bi identified at this time! To my knowledge, there aren't any specifically bi liberation groups, but we would welcome and support that type of programing. Leave me a message on our answering machine (203) CENTER-9, if any of our readers are interested.

Tomorrow, I be co-leading a discussion group at the University of CT, on what it's like to be bisexual. I'm looking forward to having a lot of fun and being quite scared. Some of you have known me as a bi-supportive lesbian, and it's with some surprise that I hear myself come out as bisexual. I like it. And I tip my hat to you, the women of BBWN and my bi lover, who have provided the supportive atmosphere for me to disassemble and reassemble my sexual identity.

Thank you for the newsletter - it's a beautiful reflection of ourselves.

Please give my name and address and a hug to Betty A. for "Lets Connect" to Hartford area women.

-Until next time, Robin G., Hartford, CT



Newsletter Staff:

editor:	Laura Sachs
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PASTE UP & CUTTING:	Laura Sachs
TYPISTS:	Betty Aubut Sharla Clos Lucy Friedland Rebecca Gorlin Liz Highleyman Robyn Ochs Laura Sachs
CALENDAR:	Laura Sachs

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Rebecca Gorlin	Lin Collette
Sharla Clos	Betty Aubut
Robyn Ochs	Schultz
Laura Sachs	Jackie Stoll
Liz Highleyman	Appropriately Anonymous
Lucy Friedland	Robin G.



Are you still sitting there with those nagging questions on your mind? Already asked your friends? Want more input? Have we got a space for you!

We gleefully reintroduce, **BI THE WAY**, a dialog column on the personal puzzles that keep haunting our thoughts. We have asked Bet MacArthur, L.I.C.S.W. (Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker) of Cambridge, MA to respond to the letters we receive. Bet has been in clinical practice for 17 years and is a long time friend and supporter of BBWN.

Unless otherwise requested, names will **NOT** be printed; other details will be modified as needed to protect **YOUR** privacy! Operators are standing Bl.....

QUESTION -

Do you think a bisexual person can be happy in a monogamous relationship? Would(n't) there be a nagging sense of only partial fulfillment, of something missing?

RESPONSE -

I think a bisexual person has as much chance of being happy with monogamy as anyone else (which means "Yes" to your first question). But if you define your own bisexuality as **you must have both** rather than **you might have either**, monogamy likely would frustrate you. Monogamy (I call it **primary commitment**) is about limits, about accepting limits, seeing them as useful and worthwhile. The limits in monogamy extend far beyond issues of sexual expression alone. What you **get** by making a primary commitment ought to seem (and be) much more valuable than what you would be foregoing; it is good if there is openness and acceptance for both partners' sexual identity. I'm sure most bisexual people who live within the constraints of a primary relationship wish from time to time for sexual contact that satisfies their dual appetite; some act this out, with or without the permission of their primary partner. Others turn that erotic energy back to their primary partner and ask for recognition of their sexual identity, for support, and even for sexual expression that honors in some way what has been foregone.

Oct. 6 (Thur) **FIRST ANNUAL PHIL OCHS SONG NIGHT!**
see page for details.

Oct. 7-9 (Fri/Sun) **THE THIRD BIENNIAL UNITY & DIVERSITY CONFERENCE**, at Hampshire College, Amherst, MA, see page for details.

Oct. 8-9 (Sat/Sun) **THE NAMES PROJECT QUILT**, will return to the National Mall in Washington, DC. If you wish to help sponsor the Quilt National Tour, send (tax deductible) contributions to: The NAMES Project, PO BOX 14573, San Francisco, CA 94114.



Bi Women

SUBSCRIPTIONS

To start a new subscription or renew your current one, fill out the form below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St./Zip: _____

☐ New subscription

☐ Renewal

Check one:

- ☐ Low income (\$7)
- ☐ Regular (\$14)
- ☐ Sustaining (\$25-49)
- ☐ Near Goddess (\$50 and up)

Note: Mailing list is confidential.

Moving? Please give us 4 weeks notice:

B.B.W.N.
P.O. Box 639, Cambridge MA 02140
(617) 247-6683

SUPPORT YOUR NETWORK!



Aug. 1 (Mon) BBWN INTRODUCTORY MEETING, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Square, 7:30pm. Come find out about the BBWN & theories of Bisexuality. ALL WOMEN WELCOME! TELL YOUR FRIENDS!! Call 247-6683 (info).

Aug. 5-7 (Fri/Sun) E.C.B.N.'S 4TH ANNUAL BISEXUAL SUMMER RETREAT, at Another Place, Greenville, NH. Call 247-6683 for information, please leave day & evening phone numbers if possible.

Aug. 12 (Fri) JEWISH BISEXUAL GROUP SHABBAT DINNER, 7:00pm, Call 247-6683 & leave message for Heidi or Rebecca. They will get back to you with location & directions, (see pg.)

Aug. 12 (Fri) FERRON performs at the Colonial Theatre, Keene, NH, 8:00pm, Call 603-352-2033 for ticket info., Clay Lady Productions.

Aug. 10-14 (Wed/Sun) 13th ANNUAL MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL, Send SASE to WWTMC, Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458 for information.

Aug. 16 (Tues) TELEPHONE/POTLUCK DINNER MEETING, to discuss & plan the future management of the tri-network phone/answering machine. Call BIS-MOVE for location and directions, Leave message for Woody, 7:30pm.

Aug. 18 (Thur) GAY & LESBIAN SPEAKERS BUREAU meeting, Topic: Breaking Down the Walls between Gay & Straight People, 7:00pm, Call 354-0133 for location.

Aug. 20 (Sat) BBWN/BBMN MONTHLY DIM SUM BRUNCH. Join us for food, fun, & conversation. Meet under the arch in Chinatown @ 10:45am, average cost \$6-8/person. Women & Men welcome. Call 247-6683 if you have questions.

Aug. 22 (Mon) BBWN VOLUNTEER NIGHT, A non-stuff evening of network biz to accomplish. Come on in, check us out, & shmooz for awhile! We promise lots of giggles! At Robyn's, call 247-6683 leave name & number, we'll call back with directions, 7:30pm.

Aug. 22 (Mon) OCTOBER/NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE, We'll be boo-hooing if we don't hear from YOU!!!

Aug. 23 (Tues) BICEP, meets again. 7:30pm, Harvard Yard, Boylston Hall, Room 2B. If you're looking to be POLITICAL, this is the place to be!! See page for previous meeting information.

Aug. 29 (Mon) BOSTON N.O.W. RAFFLE, drawing at Ryles, Inman Square, Cambridge, 8:00pm, proceeds to benefit Boston NOW. Prizes include: Gold Ring value over \$400, Round trip tickets weekend in NYC, fine dining at some of Boston's best restaurants, overnight/weekend at East Coast Berry Farm, Lenox, MA, and much, much more! Entertainment TBA. Tickets \$1/1, \$5/6, \$10/12 and may be purchased at Boston N.O.W. in person or through the mail. Call 782-1056 for more info, 973 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215

Sept. 2-5 (Fri/Mon) NEWMR VIII, NORTH EAST WOMEN'S MUSICAL RETREAT, at North Stonington, CT. Camping, Concerts, Crafts, Workshops, Videos. For ticket info & brochure send SASE to: NEWMR, PO BOX 217, New Haven, CT 06513, or call 203-523-1268.

Sept. 3 (Sat) GLSB FUNDRAISING PARTY, at Moonshine at Club Cabaret, Club Cafe, 8-10pm. Club Cafe arranging Talent Show: "Discovering You" Call 354-0133 or 536-0966 for information.

Sept. 3 (Sat) CRIS WILLIAMSON, TOM RUSH, LIVINGSTON TAYLOR, JESSE WINCHESTER & BEAUSOLEIL, at the DeCordova Museum Ampitheatre, Sandy Pond, Lincoln, MA, 12 noon & 6pm, Tix: \$19.50 reserved, \$18.50/lawn, Call Folktree 641-1010 for info.

Sept. 9, (Fri) JEWISH BISEXUAL GROUP SHABBAT DINNER, 7:00pm, see Aug. 12 for info.

Sept. 10 (Sat) BBWN PICNIC/BARBECUE, at Herder Park (across from Channel 4, Soldier's Field Road) 2-6/7pm ALL WOMEN FROM BBWN WELCOME!!! (not just support groups) Potluck, Call BIS-MOVE if you have questions, Bring food, non-alcoholic beverages, frisbees, croquet sets, friends/lovers, badminton/volleyball sets, BE CREATIVE, IT'S TIME FOR FUN, ATTENDANCE A MUST, BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sept. 11 (Sun) BBWN PICNIC/BARBECUE RAINDATE!

Sept. 16-18 (Fri/Sun) LAURA BERKSON, singer/songwriter, pianist/guitarist, performs at Sandy Hagens, 30 Grove St., Boston. Two Shows, 7 and 9:30pm Fri/Sat, One Show 3:30pm Sun., Tickets: \$8/advance, \$10/door for first 4 shows, \$8/advance/\$8 door, Sunday only, tix may be purchased at Glad Day and New Words Bookstores or call 232-1716 for phone reservations. ASL interpreted/NOT wheelchair accessible. ??? call 232-1716.

Sept. 19 (Mon) BBWN COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING, at 7:00pm, Boylston Hall, Room 2B, Harvard Yard. Can't wait to see y'all again!!! ALL WOMEN WELCOME! WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! ??? call 247-6683.

Sept. 24 (Sat) BBWN/BBMN MONTHLY DIM SUM BRUNCH, See details from Aug. 20.

Sept. 26 (Mon) BBWN VOLUNTEER NIGHT, Newsletter Stuffing, Oct/Nov Brand (Much better than Stovetop, NO QUESTION!) Consumers all agreed! At Robyn's, 7:30pm, Visual Taste Samples provided, call 247-6683 and we'll get back to you with directions.

Oct. 3 (Mon) BBWN INTRODUCTORY MEETING, see description of Aug. 1.

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Bi Women



OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 1988

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 5

ADVENTURES OF A SPERM RUNNER OR A PLACE FOR BISEXUALS IN THE LESBIAN COMMUNITY

By: Sharon Gonsalves

When I came out as bisexual to my circle of lesbian friends a few years ago I was sure that it was the end of my participation in the lesbian community. I knew the attitudes toward bisexuals were not favorable. I myself, as a lesbian, laughed at the putdowns. Now that I was "sleeping with the enemy" I voluntarily removed myself from the visible, public life I led as an organizer of women-only events. It wasn't that women-only space didn't appeal to me anymore. I didn't have to go everywhere and do everything with my male lover. I just didn't feel welcome. I knew what women were saying about me so I stayed away.

Moving to Boston changed all that. The organizations for bisexual people affirmed my existence and I found friends who accepted me as I am. That's why it came as a surprise when I ran into Jude on the Red Line one day and she wanted to talk. Jude was a dyke I knew back home and hadn't seen in a few years. I didn't know she was living in Boston, but I was pretty sure she knew about my change of heart.

continued on page 5

A NEW WAVE OF BISEXUAL CULTURE? by Robyn Ochs

Prior to this year, I was aware of only three songs written from a bisexual perspective, namely "Room For You" and "Love at the Core" by Betsy Rose (both songs are on her album "Live in the Very Front Row"), and "Somewhere Between" by Susan Graetz. Until Saturday, June 4, 1988, that is.

The following song was sung by Amanda Udis-Kessler at a gathering of the People's Music Network for Songs of Freedom and Struggle. It was one of FOUR (got that?!) new songs with bisexual content I heard that weekend. One was a song by Dennis Pearne entitled "The Closest Thing to Normal" a satirical song about trying to fit into a culture phobic of differences, which

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The newsletter of The Boston Bisexual Women's Network

P.O. Box 639 Cambridge, MA 02140

Somewhere along the line of development we discover what we really are and then we make our real decision for which we are responsible...

The influence you exert is through your own life and what you become yourself."

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Hello BBWN!



I started off with this quote since it relates to what's been happening to me over the past year - an intense time of transitions and learning to face myself - It was in fact just over a year ago that I discovered BBWN. Even the knowledge of the mere existence of your organization has really been a lifeline for me! I've always looked forward to your newsletter - a wonderful connection as well as an inspiration! Also, being part of a support group has been an AMAZING help to my perspective and well-being. Because of my relatively northern location and my living situation, it's been at times, a challenge to participate in network functions. I've really wanted to help put back into BBWN all that I've gotten out of it; the intent was there, but unfortunately so were the transportation difficulties et. al. - 2 cars later, I'm now living in a different place (near Amherst, MA) a definite positive move for me - At any rate a long-overdue (& large)

THANK YOU!!!



is in order to all of you who keep this fantastic network functioning! I realize the effort involved; it's not always easy to keep things going smoothly - especially when the responsibilities of many, end up in the hands of a few... I still do hope to be able to put in some time for the network (& not just lip service!) - If there's any way that I can help that can feasibly be done through the mail, let me know... (I do illustration professionally - if you'd be interested in line drawings for the newsletter or something, please call me.) Well, for now - I just thought I'd let you know that what you're doing is immensely appreciated!! I think back over the times of these past months - I think of where I was at, figuratively speaking, just a short year ago, and how far I've come... and it's been an incredible journey! Again, much thanks to each of you who make BBWN (For me, the one "vehicle" that's brought me dependably to where I'm at) what it is, the strength that it has been and the incentive that it will be --

Sincerely, Trice A.



Dear BiWomen,

I have been trying to organize a bisexual support group/network in Delaware. If any of you live in Delaware or vacation on Delaware beaches, I'd love to hear from you. I'd also like to write to married bisexual women with children. Many thanks to Robyn of Boston, Ginny of Maine, and Tyra of the London bisexual groups for their great suggestions and support for my organizing efforts.

-Dominique Coulet Western
115 Marshall Street
Milford DE 19963



Dear Bis and Friends of Bis,

The announcement of a new professional journal, Journal of Gay and Lesbian Psychotherapy, spurs me to write to you. The announcement I received says "The J of G/L Psychotherapy is a practical, multi-disciplinary professional forum for the exposition and discussion of issues relating to the use of psychotherapy with gay, lesbian, and bisexual clients." So, if they are going to include bisexuals in the content, why on earth did they leave them out of the title? To me, the omission is not only another example of how bisexuals get included in groups to which they don't belong (homosexuals), but loses some potential readership (and, probably, writership) for the journal. How many folks are going to go to the fine print to find out if there are topics which interest them?



So please write to David L. Scasta, MD, Editor, Journal of Gay Psychotherapy, 1721 Addison Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146 and to The Haworth Press, Inc., 12 West 32nd St., N.Y., N.Y., 10001 asking for a title change and pointing out any and all ways in which you think the current title choice is a poor one. And please share this information with everyone you know who might join us in trying to effect a title (and emphasis?) change.

Just in case you're wondering if there might be other places where material on therapy with bisexuals is included, the answer is NO! I engaged someone to conduct a computerized library search for material on therapy with bisexuals. There was nothing on applications of family therapy and very little otherwise. Essentially, if you read the Spring 1985 issue of the Journal of Homosexuality, which was entirely about bisexuality (later made into the book Two Lives To Lead) you have read most of what there is so far. Be advised, however, that Journal of Strategic and Systemic Therapies, Box 2484, Station A, London, Ontario, Canada, N6A 4G7, plans to call for papers on therapy with sexual minorities and produce an issue on the subject, hopefully in 1988. The call will be in the Spring '88 issue.

If you need to get in touch with me about any of the above, contact me at:

Bobbi K. c/o M.B.P.N.
P.O. Box 1792
Portland, ME 04104

Sincerely, Bobbi K.



Should Men Be Put On

It's membership renewal time again!! It's also an election year, and in the spirit of the democratic process, the decision whether or not men should be on the mailing list is being placed in YOUR hands!

As you have already noticed there is a place to cast your ballot on the bottom of the attached membership form. [Which must be returned if you wish to remain on the mailing list!] The purpose of this editorial is to provide you not only with the herstoric background to the debate but, also some of the pros and cons [as discussed at the 9/19/88 Coordinating Committee (C.C) meeting] so you may make an informed decision.

Please be aware that regardless of the outcome of this vote, BI WOMEN has been, and will continue to be a forum by and for women. Some concerns have been raised that if there are more men on the mailing list, there will be a greater volume of letters and articles submitted by men and that BI WOMEN will become a co-ed publication. **THIS IS NOT THE CASE!** Men haven't been, nor will they be part of the editorial or production staff of the newsletter. Up to now men have either sent letters or submitted articles, but their publication has been determined on an individual basis by the editorial staff.

The current policy is as follows: A man can get on the mailing list three different ways. He could either, one, send a letter requesting membership to the C.C., two, ask a BBWN member (who's a personal friend) to petition for him or, three, be a representative for another Bi network. All requests for membership are then reviewed by the C.C., which has in most cases approved the individual's request. Most men who have requested membership have been very well known by BBWN members and are supportive of our network. All men who have been okayed have paid membership dues. This is in conjunction with our policy that any woman can be on the mailing list regardless of her ability to pay.

If you vote NO it will mean the current policy, as stated above, will remain in effect.

If you vote YES it will mean that men may now subscribe to BI WOMEN and be put directly on the mailing list without a C.C. review. Any man subscribing would still have to pay membership dues.

Why is this decision being determined by a membership vote? As a collective, BBWN's decision making process is usually done by consensus, however, it was felt that because of the large amount of people on the mailing coming to a consensus would be close to impossible.

In order for the current policy to change, it was decided that a minimum of 60% of the responding

The Mailing List?

members must vote. It was felt that using the 60% return would insure a larger margin thus minimizing the possibility of a stale mate or too close for comfort outcome.

THIS IS NOT A DECISION TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY, THEREFORE, IF YOU WANT A VOICE IN THE DECISION, RESPOND!!

PROS & CONS: As voiced by those at the C.C. (These views do not necessarily represent the views of the editorial staff....This is a test of the Emergency Broadcasting System... Just testing-JS/SB...Chuckle, Guffaw.)

PROS:

- A) With the increased dialog between women & men within the BiCommunity the possibilities of a unified BiMovement are increased. Hypothetically the newsletter can act as a bridge building tool.
- B) More Women may be made aware of BBWN through their male friends who are reading BI WOMEN.
- C) Expand the distribution to mixed events, such as conferences, retreats, and to predominantly Gay & Lesbian book stores. This will open up our outreach possibilities.
- D) There is the potential to educate men about feminist Bisexual women's views.
- E) There are male members of other networks who are really interested in what we have to say.
- F) BBMN (Boston Bisexual Men's Network) newsletter has always been open to women.
- G) Greater Revenue

CONS:

- A) Fear of losing women's space. If men have greater access to the newsletter women might be inhibited from fully expressing their views.
- B) Questions as to the motives behind men wanting the newsletter. Is it an issue of voyeurism?
- C) Afraid of individuals getting access to women's names & phone #'s from newsletter (The mailing list is confidential) and either verbally or physically assaulting women.
- D) Concern that we are spending too much of women's energy on issues regarding men.
- E) There is a concern about the quantity of male produced articles that get into the newsletter. The concern is that this could lead to a loss in the quality of our women's forum.
- F) More newsletters to stuff.

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4 Should Men Be Put On

The Mailing List?

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The more of YOU who respond, the easier it will be to make a fair & just decision. We REALLY need your input. Please take the time to VOTE. If need be re-read this article.

NOTE: DO NOT MISPLACE YOUR MEMBERSHIP/BALLOT FORM. IT HAS BEEN SPECIALLY TREATED WITH A NON-TOXIC SUBSTANCE CAUSING THE BALLOT TO SELF DESTRUCT IN 2-4 WEEKS UNLESS SENT BACK TO BBWN!

Thank you for responding in a timely fashion!

Laura Sachs *Stephanie Berger*

ONE WOMAN'S ODYSSEY FROM PRE-NETWORK SUPPORT GROUP TO EDITOR OF BI WOMEN AND BEYOND.....

By Laura Sachs

Can you stand it ladies?! Two editorials for the price of one. What you say? Another editorial? Well whatever could it be about? Well I'm going to tell you!

I have had an incredible and enthusiastic past THREE years since getting connected with BBWN.

(Yes, I know -- she's going to reminisce - and we have to listen?? (hear in your inner ear a lovely Yiddisheh accent.)

Now, please rest assured and HEAR ME, LOUD & CLEAR, this is NOT an editorial of resignation. Rather a chance for me to step back and reflect on personal change and growth, and update the Network on the status of Bi Women.

All right you're asking, what does she mean?

Here goes. I came out as a bisexual in 1979 long before the network ever existed. I first came out to my older brother (in an argument no less), my father two hours later on the same day, and my mother two weeks later. Sound like fun?! (More on this later) I was 19 years old at the time.

Jump to 1983 and the early formation of BBWN. In truth, it was not until I began facilitating intro meetings in 1986 that I realized I actually attended one of the very first support group meetings held at the Cambridge Women's Center.

The first official BBWN event that I attended (Many thanks to Beth Sangree) was the 1st Summer Retreat held in 1984. It not only blew me away, it blew open my entire life! (See the article I wrote in 1986, BBWN Vol. 3, No. 7, Feb/Mar.) The retreat weekend was so explosive for me that I became overwhelmed by my feelings and I literally retreated from contact with the network & network members for about a year.

Due to my emotional backpedalling, I unfortunately missed the 2nd Bi Conference held in Boston (in the spring) but got the gumption (from Goddess only knows where) to march with the BBWN contingent in the 1985 Gay/Lesbian Pride Day Parade!

I unequivocally resolved to go to the 2nd Bi Retreat held in 1985! After the minimal contact with BBWN during the past year's time my perception on how much I had changed was startling. My time at the 1985 retreat was again filled with barrier breaking experiences.

By Sunday of the weekend I felt so "at home" inside that I made a silent vow to myself. I would never again NOT acknowledge my sexuality & that Bisexuality would always be part of my life! (Eegads, Gadzooks, truly NO pun intended!)

I took my vow quite seriously and not without a great deal of humor (Gotta keep laughing to stay healthy.) Since August of 1985 I've been involved in the planning & running of: the 1986 Bi Conference, the 1986 Bi Retreat, the 1987 Bi Conference, the 1987 & 1988 BBWN Fun(d)raisers, and the 1988 Bi Retreat (there was no retreat in 1987 or conference in 1988).

Since June 1986, I have also facilitated BBWN Introductory Meetings. These meetings have been particularly significant to me because they are often the first contact many women have with the network. They are a place where women walk out of being isolated and feeling that "they are the only one."

I lived for many years feeling isolated and being very lonely. I hated having no one to talk to, without having to censor huge chunks of what I wanted to express. Doing intros has given me the wonderful opportunity of talking with over 200 women and I have felt honored to be part of many "coming-outs" from both the Lesbian & Straight Communities. It has been especially meaningful to provide a "safe" space for women (and in other places - men) to talk about and deal with the myriad number of issues that arise when an individual makes the decision to acknowledge their bisexuality.

Last and certainly by no means least we come to Bi Women (formerly titled BBWN). I began my tutelage under the skilled Blake Walton. For most of 1986 I created & typed the calendar and typed articles into "ready to print" format.

During the times we were together, Blake explained various things to me about layout, pasting, cutting, editing, but I never really got a chance to do any of it.

At the end of 1986 the unexpected happened. The responsibility of the entire production of the newsletter got dropped into my lap (so to speak). Now (a small aside) FEARS can be incredibly immobilizing factors in our lives (believe me I know from whence I speak). BUT, at some point we must (and no one can do this for us) decide to confront & work through them. With this in mind I do want to share with you that I was damn scared when the newsletter was "dropped". Anxiety run amuck!!! How could I produce a newsletter as those beauties produced by Blake or M.C.??? As a matter of fact, how the hell DID one get from an entirely blank page to a 10 (sometimes 12) page gorgeous newsletter including graphics??? Typing was not editing, pasting, cutting, getting reductions made, and what the heck was a proportional wheel used for anyway?

Robyn Ochs gave me great advice and tipped me that [redacted] was back from Australia & maybe she would help out! I screamed (Well, asked politely, really) and thus our collaboration began in late December 1986 (recently ended May 1988). What a relief, a ball, a headache, a thrill, lots of laughter, sheer irreverence - Who could ask for more?

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"I'm looking for some sperm," she said. "Maybe you know where I can get some." She spoke in low tones, very discreetly, setting the scene for some underground caper. I listened nonchalantly, but intently. Was this for real?

"My lover is trying to get pregnant and we're looking for a donor. We don't want to go through an agency. Too risky around custody when there are records. And it has to be done anonymously, sight unseen. We need a straight man who's never had sexual contact with another man, no i.v. drug use. We don't want to risk AIDS. It's really hard to find donors. Maybe you know someone."

As she's laying it out for me my mind goes to work. Who but a bisexual feminist would know decent straight men? - sensitive, good politics, not macho or aggressive. Gotta have the right genes.

"Yeah, there's someone I could ask. I'll be seeing him later today."



"Good. Let's exchange phone numbers. I'll call you tonight, and I'll use the name Sylvie, okay? This person is not to know who I am, where I live or anything about me. It's really important."

"Okay."

"I'm gonna need more than one donation - in about a week and then a few days later. The timing is critical so if he says 'yes' make sure he's available."

"Okay."

"And I'm gonna need a history on him. I'll tell you about it tonight."

"Okay. Talk to you later." I got off the train and walked toward home with thoughts buzzing through my head like, 'This is the kind of thing you read about in Sojourner, but it never really happens to you' and 'I'd better go buy some artichoke hearts!'

cont. on page 7

contains the tongue in cheek line "And just to ease your mind that I really turned out fine, my lover at least she's half normal - she's bi." The other two, "Love is Love" by Cyd Slotteroff, and a song collectively written by participants in a "Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Song Swap" will hopefully appear in subsequent issues of the newsletter.

It is my hope that these songs represent only the crest of a "new wave" of songs celebrating bisexuality.

BORDERLINE BISEXUAL BLUES

by Amanda Udis-Kessler @1988

Let me sing you a story of the people
that I love
And the prejudiced exclusion that I
face.
I'm not welcome in either the straight
world or the gay.
No community has given me a place.
Well sometimes I love women and
sometimes I love men
And the passion isn't something I
control.
Oh folks have told me why it's such a
problem to be bi
But I need both sides to know that I'm
whole.

CHORUS:

I'm not really straight and I'm not
really gay.
All I am is me and what more can I say?
You tell me make your mind up well
how can I choose?
I can't play it straight or gay. Either
way I lose.
I got the borderline bisexual blues.

You'd think I could identify with
straights half the time
But that's not as easy as it sounds.
To them I'm just a deviant no matter how
much,
Or else I'm just playing around (and
really normal).
Well when I get involved they might be
supportive
If the person's of the opposite sex
And don't we know that these days, when
it comes to AIDS
Bisexuals are really the threat.

continued on page 7



Dahling,
I just
love the
way you
dance!!



Oh,
thank
You!!

MERYL L. WOLPER, LICSW

FEMINIST PSYCHOTHERAPY WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR

Lesbian, Bisexual, Heterosexual

617-964-3448

Sliding Scale

Ins. Accepted

I am asking for more, and as a voice & representative of BBWN, the network is asking for more. If BBWN as a collective is to grow, thrive, and stay healthy NEW & OLD members must GET INVOLVED! It may be a radically new concept, but when those of us who are facilitators or organizers of events say we really want new input, that all members have an equal say in what direction the network will take, WE MEAN IT! Throw the concept of, "I've only belonged to the network for 4, 8, 10 months, what do I have to offer? Or, How could I do this, I'm not qualified," right out your window THIS INSTANT!! Can you speak, think, feel??? GUESS WHAT? YOU GOT IT!! YOU'RE QUALIFIED!! (Surprise, Surprise).

The only way that anybody gets "qualified" is to take a chance, take the risk that they can learn something new. And one of the best ways to grow and thrive is if those who have been around for awhile can pass their knowledge on to both new and old network members.

As one of the network members who has been around for awhile, I have devoted many hours of my life these past three years. I have had some marvelous opportunities to work with wonderful women and men from other Bi organizations.

I have had the chance to take on challenges, do national & regional networking, organize conferences, retreats, be an editor, and make BIG & small mistakes along the way!

I have learned many invaluable lessons that I will benefit from the rest of my life, because of my involvement and would like you to have the same opportunities.

It is important for all reading this article to understand that because of all that I have gained from my involvement with the network I am now making major changes in my life.

Members of the network repeatedly feel and state that the newsletter is an incredibly vital part of what the network does and I agree. For some women it is the only contact or voice they may hear as to what's going on in the Bi community on a local or national level.

Putting the newsletter together has been a very emotionally satisfying experience for me. However, because of my years of experience it is clear to me that the newsletter needs to have a larger Staff (5-6) to continue. And the truth is, if you don't come forward and pitch in & help share the work, fun, pride, love... then what could be produced, won't be.

Hence the TWO NEWSLETTER TRAINING SESSIONS:

Sunday, Oct. 30, 1-3PM, and Sunday, Nov. 6, 1-3pm, held in Room 2B, Boylston Hall, Harvard Yard (see pg. 10).

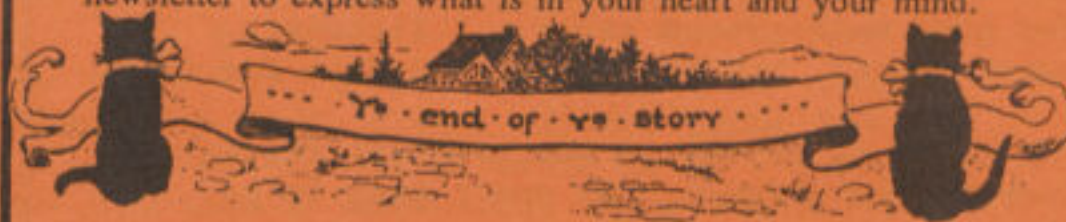
The goals of the training sessions are as follows: a) To outline the specific steps of putting our newsletter together.

b) To enable each of you the opportunity of choosing in what manner your skills & talents will be utilized as a member of the newsletter staff. This staff will be made up of an editor, co-editor, and 3 or more individuals (titles to be discussed at a later date) who will be responsible for various parts of the newsletter. Each person to become an expert at the areas that they have expressed interest in and to become familiar with the global picture of what it takes to produce the entire newsletter. The end result is an entire staff that is well versed in all areas of the newsletter production, so that after an initial 3 issue commitment, e. g. the editor could rotate out, the co-editor would become the editor, and someone new could rotate in. (This is an example, final decisions of how this process would take place will be decided after the newsletter training sessions).



c) It is only by your including yourself that Bi Women will survive!

It is important for you to have the vehicle of your newsletter to express what is in your heart and your mind.



"When I told him I was bisexual he thought I only wanted to make love every other week."

Newsletter Staff:

CO-EDITORS: Laura Sachs
Stephanie Berger

LAYOUT: Stephanie Berger
Laura Sachs

PASTE UP
& CUTTING: Laura Sachs
Stephanie Berger

TYPISTS: Betty Abut
Stephanie Berger
Sharla Clos
Robyn Ochs
Laura Sachs

CALENDAR: Stephanie Berger

CONTRIBUTORS:
Sharon Gonsalves Robyn Ochs
Sharla Clos Dominique Western
Stephanie Berger Trice A.
Laura Sachs
Bobbi K.

I asked Jim what he thought and he said sure, he'd like to help. He was sympathetic to lesbians and knew that the gay male community was no longer a place to go for sperm donors. He had no plans to leave town in the next two weeks, and no interest in parenting a child or knowing where his sperm went.

When "Sylvie" called I told her I had a donor and she listed all the things she wanted to know about his family history. They were mostly medical questions (any cancer, heart disease, genetically transmitted diseases) and questions about whether or not he was in an "at risk" group for AIDS, but also questions about race and ethnic background. Clearly Jude and her lover had the luxury to decide what their baby would look like, and they were trying to make life as easy as possible for the child of a lesbian couple.

I took Jim's history and "Sylvie" approved of him as a donor. I was to wait for a call from her in the next few days while she and her lover watched for signs of ovulation. Jim was to come to my apartment and jerk off into a jar which I would keep warm in my armpit until Jude arrived to pick it up. Jim was to stay in an interior room away from the door so as not to see Jude or ever be able to identify her. She



was going to hand me a magazine in case anyone was watching to cover up the fact that there was a sperm run in progress. A little too paranoid, I thought, but with custody battles raging in the courts, I could see not wanting to take chances.



The call came and everything proceeded as planned - me with my jar and Jude in her trenchcoat. A few days later Jim made a second donation and I never heard from Jude again nor did I attempt to find out what happened. But somewhere out there in the lesbian community there may be the product of a secretive sperm run with a bisexual woman at its center.



(Chorus)

To gays I'm just experimenting, not one of them.
Or else they say I'm "not quite out."
They say that I can always pass for straight if I need to
So how can I know what oppression's about?

*If I'm seeing a woman I could just say I'm a lesbian.
Now that kind of deceiving really hurts
But if I'm open with my lover and she thinks I'll go straight
She'll make sure she gets to say goodbye first.



(Chorus)



When it comes to gay rights politics,
I put in my time
No matter what you call me, my sex life is a crime.
I organize for marches, put the flyers on the wall
But their titles don't include the word "bisexual" at all.
Oh I can't deny my feelings and I don't want to lie.
You know closets were intended for clothes.

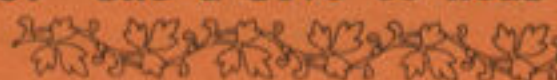
There's not a fence I'm sitting on, I'm not undecided.
I'm bi and that's the way that it goes.
If you want to be fair, just respect me as a person
'Cause when the whole mess is over and done
There will be a day when the labels don't matter
And we'll relax and have a whole lot of fun.

(Chorus) new last line:

I got the borderline bisexual - and it's such bad news,
The borderline bisexual blues.

*(This song is for women and men. If a man is singing, these four lines should be gender specific.)

Amanda Udis-Kessler is a 1988 Oberlin College graduate who is interested in music, political activism, and peer counseling. If you are interested in obtaining a tape of this song (please note this song is copyrighted) or other songs by Amanda, please contact her at 9 Pond St., Jamaica Plain MA 02130, (617) 522-5455. She'd love to hear from you.



8 For Your Information:

Oct 11 (Tues) In Celebration of NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY (Based on the March on Washington Anniversary) BiCep invites you to an Evening of BiPride. Meet in Brookline @ 7pm under the Clock Tower at Brooks Drugstore, Coolodge Corner (Intersection of Harvard & Beacon Sts.) Wear your Bisexual Pride T-shirts & Buttons! We're going to be Out & Visible in the Square, then have dinner, (Bring \$\$\$) Then @ 10pm we're off to the 1270 to boogie out & be outwardly Bi in & with the Gay Community. Bring your Danc'in shoes!!

Oct. 16 (Sun) First 1989 Bisexual Conference Planning Meeting, at 7pm in Alan's home. Very, very important mtg. All welcome. Call BIS-MOVE for directions. It's gonna be the happe'ning place to be so, be there or be square. □□□□□□□□

This will be the place to decide whether or not there will be a 1989 Conference.

Oct. 22 (Sat) Gay & Lesbian Speakers Bureau will have a full day training session of speakers. Location: U. Mass, Park Square Bldg., Back Bay, Boston, at the corner of Arlington, Columbus, & Stuart Sts. Reg. begins @ 10am & training will run from 10:30am to 4:30am. Bring a bag lunch or buy lunch nearby. Please RSVP to 354-0133. People of color are encouraged to attend. Anyone wishing to help plan or run a session should call Bill @ 868-4512.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Oct. 23 (Sun) 3:30-6:30pm, North American Bi Network (NABN) planning meeting. Meeting is a jumping off point to elect a BBWN representative to NABN as well as talk about the upcoming 1990 NABN Conference in San Francisco. Harvard Yard, Bolyston Hall, Room 2B. Vault your ambitions coast to coast!

CALL FOR MATERIAL:

Writings by bisexual feminists are now being collected for an anthology which will reflect the growing visibility of the Bisexual Community. Essays, prose, poetry articles and interviews will be considered. Write Lani Kaahumanu at: 20 Cumberland, San Francisco, CA 94110 or Loraine Hutchins, 1113 Fairmont NW, Washington, DC 20009 by October 15. Call (415) 821-3534.

★★★★★

Birthday Article Update: OOPS! We Goofed! (See Dec/ Jan issue)

★★★★★

We have received a Bi newsletter from Amsterdam, but unfortunately we can't read it. HELP! Does anyone translate Dutch?

★★★★★

CONGRATS to BBWN member Sharla Clos who was elected Official Secretary to the 1989 Lesbian & Gay Pride Committee! (Sharla is doing PR work for the Committee as well!) YAHOO SHARLA! - Laura



HONOR ROLL

A SPECIAL THANKS & HOMEMADE TOFU CHEESE CAKE (FRUIT JUICE SWEETENED, OF COURSE) TO ALL THE WONDERFUL, FUNKADELIC WOMEN WHO HELPED BBWN DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER!

Ann G.	Ruth L.	Susan C.
Sue W.	Alix B.	Jackie S.
Liz N.	Laura S.	Sharla C.
M.C.D.	Heidi F.	Pepper G.
Jean K.	Carla F.	Rebecca G.
Lucy F.	Lynne L.	Jaffray C.
Beth I.	Robin G.	Marjorie B.
Lisa W.	Robyn O.	Stephanie B.
	Diane C.	

Poetry

PERSONAL FREEDOM

To be unique is to be free,
A free spirit in such a crowded yet lonely world
Is such a beauty to see.
But people are afraid to let themselves be who they
really want to be,
and this is such a tragedy.

Why is it people can't accept others for who they are
and stop trying to change the world around them,
simply because they feel different.
To these people, we should say, take a hike.
America is a free country and we should have
the right to choose the lifestyle we want.

All our lives people try to teach us their
ideas of right from wrong,
I ask, to these people do we belong?
We should have the option to decide
who to love and with whom we live, what to keep
and what to give.
Yes, we should have a choice, a personal
freedom.

Sharla C.

Published Previously:
Best New Authors of 1986
American Poetry Anthology
Copyright: 1986





Looking for a home? This could be your lucky day! 35 yr old Prof L w/short cat (ha, ha) seeks similiar, stable, non-smoker to share wonderful, safe, clean, large 2BR Apt. in Brookline Village. \$370/month includes heat, close to T, No Pets. Please call : 738-8621. Definitely NOT BiPhobic!



TELEPHONE (617) 498-9923

BET MACARTHUR, ACSW LICSW
COUNSELING, PSYCHOTHERAPY
CONSULTATION & TRAINING

14 PLEASANT ST.
CENTRAL SQUARE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

ATTENTION SUPPORT GROUPS:




We are trying to get some idea of how many support groups are out there and whether they're open for referrals. If you are in a support group, please do us the favor of sending the following information:

- Support Group Name (if any) _____
- How often do you meet _____
- How many members _____
- Are you open or closed to new members _____
- Brief Description _____
- Contact Person(s) _____
- and phone #'s _____
- Founding Date _____

Please fill this out and return to: BBWN, Attn:Robyn, P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140, or call BIS-MOVE! THANKS VERY MUCH!



Nov. 24 (Thurs) Happy Turkey Day, and for the rest of us Vegies: Happy Tofu Pup Day. 

Nov 25 (Fri) Olivia Records 1st Anniversary at Carnegie Hall & the Waldorf Astoria. Featuring Chris Williamson, Lucie Blue Trembay, Deirdre McCalla, & others. MC Kate Clinton. Call for Tix & info 1-800-631-6277, or send SASE with mail order for \$25-\$100 to: Olivia Records, 4400 Market St, Oakland, CA 94608. Tix order must be received by 11/15/88 (See Sojourner 9/88 pg.4.)

Nov. 28 (Mon) Volunteer Night, in truth Ladies-tonight we not only stuff the Dec/Jan Newsletters, we also get to stuff ourselves! Now what does this mean? Only those special women who are there will ever know- Surprise, Surprise. This Surprise Tasty Treat is personally guarenteed by Laura Sachs. See ya there!

Dec. 4 (Sun) First night of Chanukah!

Dec. 5 (Mon) BBWN Intro Meeting, see 10/3 for info.

ONGOING:

New Bisexual Women's Rap Group, meets EVERY TUESDAY 7:30-10pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St, Central Square. This group is an open & ongoing group. Topics are determined by those who participate. Sometimes even videos will be shown (We saw *Desert Hearts* the other week.)

GAY COMMUNITY NETWORKING BREAKFASTS:
Second Wednesday of each month at the CLUB CAFE' (Corner of Columbus Ave. & Berkeley St.) Breakfasts are free and begin at 8am. Call 437-5870 for dates & questions.

SM SUPPORT GROUP:



Attendees of the SM workshop held at the August Retreat decided to form an ongoing Support Group for Bisexual women and men interested in SM. Meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of every month at 5pm in someone's home. Next meeting is Saturday October 15th. Call Lynne 776-7034 or Diane 876-0247 for information.



Every Wednesday, 7:30pm, AL-ANON GROUP FOR BISEXUAL ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS. An Al-Anon meeting for Bi ACOA meets Wednesday nights at Mass. General Hospital, lower amphitheater (next to emergency entrance). For more info & directions call Marge (617) 259-1559.

Oct. 3 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St, Central Square, 7:30pm. Come find out about the BBWN, theories of Bisexuality and meet interesting women. All women welcome! Tell your friends! Call 247-6683 for more info.

Oct. 4 (Tues) BiRap Group, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant st, Central Square, 7:30-10pm. Finally the event we've all been waiting for! The groups is open and meets every Tuesday.

Oct. 6 (Thur) First Annual Phil Ochs Song Night at the Cambridge Rindge & Latin Auditorium, 459 Broadway, Cambridge. 7:30PM (Wheelchair accessible). Featuring many of your favorite local artists. Tix \$8/advance, \$10/door, \$5/low income. For more info. contact Patty 863-0484.

Oct. 7-9 (Fri-Sun) Third BiAnnual Unity & Diversity Conference at Hampshire College, Amherst, MA. This years theme "Wellness in Our Community". Call Hampshire College Women's Center at (413) 549-4600 x 770 for info on reg., events & directions. BBWN will be giving workshops. See you there.

Oct. 8-9 (Sat-Sun) Names Project Quilt will return to the National Mall in DC. For more info call (415) 863-5511.

Oct. 11 (Tues) National Coming Out Day!
Come Out, Come Out wherever you are!



Oct. 15 (Sat) SM Support Group & Potluck Dinner, 5 PM Call Lynne 776-7034 or Diane 876-0247 for the scope. Also see FYI pg. . Bring non-alcoholic beverages & food!

Oct. 14 (Fri) Oy Vey! Jewish Bisexual Group Shabbat Dinner, 7 PM. Call 247-6683 & leave message for Heidi or Rebecca. They will get back to you with location & directions. Note: All return messages will be discreet.

Oct. 22 (Sat) BBWN/BBMN Monthly Dim Sum Brunch. Come join us for yummy food and good company. Meet under the arch in Chinatown @ 10:45, average cost \$6-8/person. Women & men welcome. Call 247-6683 if you have questions.



Oct. 23 (Sun) Newsletter Staff meeting, 1-3pm at Harvard Yard, Bolyston Hall, Room 2B. Mysteries unveiled, dating back to the dawn of time, about newsletter production. Call BIS-MOVE & leave message for Stephanie or Laura.



Oct. 24 (Mon) BBWN Volunteer Night: a non-newsletter event. (Same Bitime, same Bichannel), 7:30 at Robyn's call 247-6683. Leave name and number & we'll get back to you with the vital statistics.



Oct. 24 (Mon) AND...Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water & read your newsletter, it's...drum roll please... the DEC/IAN Newsletter Deadline!!! So keep those wonderful letters & articles coming.

Oct. 28 (Fri) Ruth Kurtz recital, 8:30-10:30PM, at Williams Hall, NE Conservatory, 290 Huntington Ave, Boston. She will perform songs in English, Yiddish, Jazz Standards and Duets. FREE!

Oct. 31 (Mon) HALLOWEEN!



Nov. 6 (Sun) Newsletter Staff meeting. See 10/23 for info. Mysteries revealed for a second time.

Nov. 8 (Tues) ELECTION DAY! Don't forget to vote!

Nov. 9 (Wed) BiCEP Meeting, 7:15pm, planning mtg for BiCEP's projects to increase Bi-awareness & visibility. Call 734-9348 for location.



Nov. 11 (Fri) Shabbat Dinner. See 10/14 for info.

Nov. 14 (Mon) BBWN Coordinating Committee Meeting at 7PM, Bolyston Hall, Harvard Yard. All Women welcome. Call 247-6683. Come on out & see us sometime... (We'll be in Room 2B.)

Nov. 19 (Sat) Dim Sum Brunch. See 10/22 for details

Nov. 19 (Sat) Connie Kaldor, with special guest Laura Berkson, at the Somerville Theatre, at 8pm, Tix \$12/14 (Reserved) ASL interpreted, wheelchair accessible but not bathrooms. Call 661-1252, info.

Nov. 20 (Sun) Lesbian & Bisexual Women's Independent Film & Video Festival, at Femme Core Space, basement, 464 Harrison Ave., Boston. Advanced Tix or reservations required. Women only showing @ noon, mixed audience at 4pm. Call 350-7598 for Tix, \$3-5 sliding scale. Children under 10 Free!



cont. on pg. 9



BI WOMEN

DECEMBER '88 - JANUARY '89

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 6



A Giant Leap for Bi-kind

The U.S.-Canadian [North American] Bisexual Network

By Lucy Friedland

There's still plenty of time for interested BBWN members to get in on the birthing of this wondrous U.S.-Canadian [North American] Bisexual Network. On October 23, 12 women and men of the bisexual community met to discuss the formation of the Network. This meeting was only the second held so far in Boston since the Network's inception at the March on Washington in October, 1987.

How wouldja like to communicate with bi's from all 'round the country and check out who's movin' and who's shakin'? Or to put it more formally, do you want to become a momentous part of U.S.-Canadian history? Attend the next BBWN Coordinating Committee meeting where we'll be deciding who will represent BBWN on the U.S.-Canadian [North American] Bi Network Steering Committee. We will be electing one or more women to take on this important role. These are the responsibilities:

- 1) You serve as a conduit for information going back and forth from the local to the U.S.-Canadian [North American] level. Bring news of the U.S.-Canadian [North American] Bisexual Network to BBWN, and bring BBWN's input and opinions back to the Network.
- 2) You represent BBWN at a meeting to be held sometime next year, somewhere in the midwestern U.S. This meeting is being convened to draft a "Statement of Purpose" and By-Laws for the U.S.-Canadian [North American] Bisexual Network. (If you can't attend the meeting, a written proposal will suffice.)

continued on page 3

BILINE: A WORK IN PROGRESS

Ima Womanlover

Names and some peripheral situations have been changed to retain privacy. The actual personal experiences, however, remain true to form



Personal odysseys take lifetimes.

Mine seems like forever. Or, at least, roughly half my life.

You see, it has taken me 15 years --**fifteen**-- to fully recognize, acknowledge, accept, revel (privately), negotiate, revel (semi-privately), agonize over, negotiate (more), appreciate, and now joyously revel (semi-publicly) in my love for women.

There's still much more to negotiate.

Being married curtails that part of me that wants all the candy in the store. Not like I haven't had tastes of a special kind..

Male candy has the bite of hard Sour Cherry, mixed with tasty combinations of Nestle's semi-sweet chocolate morsels and chunky peanut butter scooped from a jar.

He's a rare mixture of everything I love -- all at once.

Female candy has the texture of salt water taffy. You knead, you stroke the mounds until they melt in your mouth. And she's the sweet softness of delectable ice cream.

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The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140

2 Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

There were present at the meeting on 9/19/88: Stephanie B., Sharla C., Lucy F., Pam L., Robyn O., Jackie S., Laura S., and Lisa W., Amanda U.

MEN ON THE MAILING LIST

There is a proposed form to be attached to the next issue of BiWomen that will ask for people to vote whether or not they think men should be on the mailing list.

An article will be written and included in the same issue as the first form which includes the pro's & con's of having men on the mailing list.

The current policy of submissions by men need to be clarified.

Men's letters have been taken under coordinating committee consideration and printed in the past. If men are allowed to now receive the newsletter the submission policy will not change and men will not be allowed editing privilege.

Who wins vote?

2/3 or 60/40?

It was voted and agreed to be 60%/40%.

MEMBERSHIP RATE CHANGE (ON NEXT NEWSLETTER)

There will be a small increase in subscription rates for 1989, and it should be noted that if men are allowed to be on the newsletter they must pay a fee, unlike women where we like to make sure that all interested receive, irrespective of their ability to pay.

SUPER NEWS!!!!!!!

Ellen B. volunteered to be the new treasurer for BBWN.

Sojourner has requested BBWN do an article: Lisa, Mary Charolette and Lucy are working on.

Bay Windows - My Turn Column has also requested we submit material: Sharla C. will work on.

North American Bisexual Network proposing that Coordinating Committee be formed within next 4-months.

Introduction Meeting - New People Should have rotation - training

Statement was made that BBWN is a collective and that new people should come forth to cross-train and work on a variety of different items.

Any new names for mailing list should be sent on 3x5 cards to P.O. Box 639 Attention Mailing List

Jackie will continue to do Action Letter in between newsletters as reminders of meetings, etc.

HONOR ROLL

Sue W.	Heidi F.	Pam L.
Ann G.	Robyn O.	Jean K.
Liz N.	Jackie S.	Alix B.
M.C.D.	Sharla C.	Laura S.
Lucy F.	Rebecca G.	Ellen B.
Lisa W.	Majorie B.	Amanda U.
Clare	Stephanie B.	

Special thanks to the following nifty, neat, peachy keen women for time, energy and groove-matic vibes given to the BBWN during the months of October and November, 1988:

Dear honorable women: If you've helped out the Network and we forgot to put you on the Honor Roll we apologize. We have been experiencing technical difficulties (We misplaced the list). So please let us know so we can honor you in the next issue.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

CO-EDITORS: STEPHANIE BERGER
LAURA SACHS

LAYOUT: LAURA SACHS
STEPHANIE BERGER
ANN GOGLIA

TYPISTS: STEPHANIE BERGER
SHARLA CLOS
LUCY FRIEDLAND
HEIDI FRIEDMAN
ANN GOGLIA
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CONTRIBUTORS:

PAM LIPSHUTZ	STEPHANIE BERGER
LUCY FRIEDLAND	LAURA SACHS
IMA WOMANLOVER	SHARLA CLOS
MARY BELL	HEIDI FRIEDMAN
KIRSTEN	Z (BBWN MEMBER)
	BET MACARTHUR

3) You meet periodically with the Steering Committee representatives from the other local/regional bi groups - i.e., the Boston Bisexual Men's Network (BBMN), the Bisexual Committee Engaging in Politics (BiCEP), and the East Coast Bisexual Network (ECBN). Together, the local Steering Committee representatives will facilitate Boston's participation in the formation of the U.S.-Canadian [North American] Bisexual Network.

If you're interested in being one of those pioneering bi women who represent BBWN on the Steering Committee, or even just telling these bi's how wonderful they are, show up at the next CC meeting. The date and location are listed in the "Calendar" section of this newsletter.

Also, the BBWN Coordinating Committee would like to hear from women who are interested in learning about lesbian and gay politics on a national level. We are looking for BBWN members who would like to serve as bi contacts for national lesbian and gay organizations, so we can be informed of their programs and activities. This job would entail getting on the mailing list of your favorite gay and lesbian groups and informing BBWN members of activities that may effect or engage us. Come to the CC meeting, if you'd like to talk about this idea, or leave a message for me (Lucy) at (617) BIS-MOVE.

Voilà, the minutes extraordinaires from the second Boston meeting for the formation of the U.S.-Canadian [North American] Bisexual Network [from here on designated as "the Bi Network"], October 23, 1988:

Twelve people attended the meeting - 6 women and 6 men. All the *Bi Network* communications that had been received since May 1 were distributed. First we considered a proposal from Beth W. (from BiPol and the Seattle Women's Bi Network) to elect local representatives from each network to serve on a *Bi Network* Steering Committee. Everyone thought that Beth's proposal is a good one. All agreed that each network should immediately put out a call for candidates, since Beth has recommended a 4-month time frame for the "election." The "job description" was formulated [see above]. BBWN, BBMN, BiCEP and ECBN will arrange for their own designation process. Robyn and Laura agreed to disseminate the *Bi Network* information to ECBN Steering Committee members so they can participate in the proceedings.

Lucy reported that, so far, the Boston's June 2nd proposal for the formation of the *Bi Network* has been received favorably by other networks and individuals. The only exception is the portion about sending an apology letter to *Bi Network* contributors who may have been misled into thinking they were joining an existent organization rather than a "Network-in-Formation." All agree that as long as the designation, "Network-in-Formation" is used to make clear to prospective contributors that the organization hasn't yet developed its "Statement of Purpose" or by-laws, we would be happy to forego the letters of apology.

At least 6 people are independently attempting to develop accurate listings of the bi networks and contacts nationwide. The 6 we know of are: Alan H. (in his letter-writing project); Robyn; Gary North (in his newsletter, *Bisexuality*); BiPol (San

cont. on page 5

In this issue we are still calling for Membership Renewals and votes for (or against) Men on the Mailing list (see page stapled over front cover). This is also the time of year that we "purge" the mailing list. So even if you don't vote (but we hope you will) or even if you're short on cash (Bi Women is available to all women regardless of ability to pay/Men must pay-see editorial last issue) please respond. We must have a response for your name to remain on the mailing list. If you have already responded we sincerely THANK YOU and suggest you pass the cover sheet on to a friend. Or send it in as a wonderful Chanukah, Christmas, or Birthday present (a novel gift to be sure).

Well, on to more serious business. This issue also announces the 5th ECBN Bi Conference, May 5-7 (pg.10), The 3rd BBWN Fun(d)raiser (pg.10), The June 1990 NABN International Bi Conference (pg.5), and our first article regarding safer sex practices for women. While workshops about AIDS and safer sex practices have always been an integral part of the past ECBN conferences & retreats (and will continue to be in the future), these issues have not been addressed (in any depth) in Bi Women until now.

We welcome and encourage your thoughts/feelings, letters/poems/stories about dealing with AIDS and safe sex practices. In this and future issues of Bi Women we will be listing AIDS info phone numbers and resources. We will be compiling this information as we are able. There is sometimes a vast array of bureaucratic, homophobic & biphobic BS to plow through in getting some of the current CDC (Center for Disease Control) and US Dept. of Health information. (Two hours of nationwide phone calling is downright stupid folks!)

So, if you know of books, videos (they've gotta be out there!), resource centers, etc., re: AIDS & safer sex practices that have been worthwhile or helpful to YOU, please let us know!!

If there are any individuals in the network for whom these issues are of special interest or would like to focus their energy on these issues for BBWN, please call 617-247-6683 and leave a message for Laura or Stephanie.

-- Laura Sachs, Co-Editor



THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO SAFE SEX, is one book that has been brought to our attention. It has been produced by The Faculty of the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in San Francisco. If you wish to purchase the book, please send \$6.95 + \$2.00 (shipping/handling) to:

Exodus Trust, 1523 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. (415-928-1133)

Checks should be made out to: Exodus Trust.

4 SAFE SEX BI ALL MEANS

Earlier this year Beth Weise from San Francisco sent me North Bi Northwest, issues #2 and #3. They contained the following safe sex guidelines from the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services. The LMWHS has also produced a terrific safe sex starter kit for women which includes the guidelines, 2 latex condoms, 3 latex dental dams, 1 latex glove only (due to latex shortage) and an insert on communications skills & how to use the safer sex items. (Vinyl gloves which are as effective as latex gloves are available in many drugstores.) The guidelines are clear, concise and cover all varieties of sexual activity. We were very pleased to see bisexual women included and feel this is a fine resource which we hope you'll keep around for the next time.

We encourage ALL OUR READERS TO GET ONE OF THESE KITS & PLAY!! Maybe you & your partner don't need or choose to do safe sex now, but it is a skill we'll all probably need for a long time to come. Yes, we know, tough to deal with all these issues, but better to PLAY with the accoutrements of safe sex NOW, so that when & if they're ever necessary in YOUR life, the HOW doesn't interfere with the WHAT & the UMMM!!



PLEASE NOTE: The US Center for disease control has declared that saliva is not a transmission substance for the HIV virus which is thought to cause AIDS. Their research also indicates that there are no known cases of transmission of the virus via saliva. What does this mean to all of us who kiss? It means we can! The LMWHS guidelines were written before this info was available which is why they list french(wet) kissing as low risk instead of no risk. This does not mean that kissing is no risk. If one partner has any bleeding or abrasions (chancres sores, split lips, bleeding gums from dental work or flossing) that blood can transmit the virus. Therefore, kissing isn't totally safe, but is low risk, especially if neither partner has any cuts or breaks of the skin in or around their mouths. So kiss carefully, then pull out the dams, condoms discuss what you want to do and PLAY SAFELY!!



SAFE SEX GUIDELINES FOR LESBIANS

Most lesbians do not have a high risk of contracting or transmitting the AIDS virus at this time. But for lesbians who fit into one of the "high risk" groups, practicing safe sex is a must to prevent further exposure. For lesbians who are at low risk, learning and practicing safe sex is the healthiest way to stay sexually active and prevent AIDS from growing in our community.

Lesbians at High Risk for AIDS



- Lesbians who share needles or any other paraphernalia (spoons, works syringes) when using IV drugs. This the single most important category for lesbians.
- Lesbians who have had sexual contact with:
 - men who have been actively gay or bisexual since 1979
 - people of either sex whose sexual histories are unknown
 - people who use IV drugs
 - people who are hemophiliac, or who have received blood transfusions between 1979 and 1985
- Lesbians who have received blood transfusions or blood products between 1979 and 1985



Lesbians at Low Risk for AIDS

- Lesbians who have been mutually monogamous with a partner since 1979
- Lesbians who have been celibate and have received no blood transfusions or blood products since 1979
- Lesbians whose sexual partners have not been at risk since 1979

General Guidelines: AIDS experts are advising lesbians who believe that they run the risk of either contracting or transmitting the disease to follow safe sex guidelines. For safer sex, avoid sexual activity that involves contact with body fluids. The virus is transmitted through direct contact with infected blood, semen, urine, feces, and possibly vaginal secretions.

Safe Lesbian Sex

Massage, hugging, body-to-body rubbing, social (dry) kissing, voyeurism, mutual masturbation (each partner touching her own genitals), sex toys which are protected with condoms or cleaned and dried thoroughly between each partner's use, S/M activities that do not involve exchanging body fluids, and virtually any other activity that does not require sharing or contact with body fluids.



Low Risk Lesbian Sex (if both partners are low risk for AIDS (If you or your partner are high risk, test positive on the AIDS Antibody Test, or have AIDS or ARC, seek additional information regarding sexual activities))

French (wet) kissing, cunnilingus or anilingus with a latex barrier, genital or anal contact with hands or fingers (including fisting) while wearing latex gloves or finger cots, and external water sports.



continued on page 8

Francisco's bi political group, through the *Bi Network* database; T. Geller (in soliciting contributions for his book, *The Whole Bisexual Almanac*); and the Bay Area Bi Network (for their *BABN Resource Guide*). Robyn pointed out that there are many inconsistencies between the lists, but she thinks that it's valuable for so many people to be moving the project along. She reported that she will continue to maintain her list and send copies out, at least quarterly, to all the other networks and contacts on the list. [You're a sweetheart, Robyn!!] ♡♡

We talked about whether BiPol in California should be the only ones taking on the mailing and database work. People generally agreed that if we tried to rotate the work out of California to alleviate their burden and involve more people, we'd have a huge mess on our hands. Plus, we are all thrilled that California has managed this far and has done such a good job.

We talked about what to do to help California organize the conference. Alan, Robyn and Laura all agreed to individually call up BiPol with their input. Lucy volunteered to send BiPol's request for information and conference questionnaire to other past organizers of conferences. (Fifteen were named off.) Woody said that at one point people had talked about writing a manual to leave behind to help future conference organizers. For further distribution, the conference questionnaire will mail out in upcoming issues of *Bi Women* [see elsewhere in this newsletter] and *BBMN News*.

Next, we discussed whether the name of the *Bi Network* should be the "International Bisexual Network" since some people have been using the moniker in their communications. Eleven out of 12 people were unhappy with using the word, "International" in the *Bi Network* name. Finally, we agreed that we could all live with either the "US-Canadian Bisexual Network" or the "North American Bisexual Network," providing that "North American" does not connote the inclusion of Latin America since we haven't attempted, as of yet, to include Mexico or Central America in our organizing.

About funds: BBWN owes the *Bi Network* some money from the March on Washington fundraising. Lucy and Laura must sort this out. BBWN and/or ECBN may want to donate some funds to the *Bi Network* formation process.

We agreed to send a letter to California outlining the decisions and proposals made at this meeting. Zachary, Marjorie and, tentatively, Pepper, will write the letter. ♡

NORTH AMERICAN BISEXUAL NETWORK REPRESENTATIVE:

If you want to have a voice in the election of who will represent BBWN to the NABN you MUST attend (or send your views) to the January 9, 1989 Coordinating Committee Meeting (see Calendar).

*** Women who are interested in being representatives should be prepared to talk about their vision for the National movement and their commitment to the job.

PLEASE NOTE: The information pertaining to the 1990 International Bisexual Conference in San Francisco will be included in the February/March issue of *Bi Women*.

Also, all-or- nothing. Kind of like Double Chocolate Chip. Either I stay away, or I devour.

I could "Oreo Smash" both of them.

The line from Olympia in "Moonstruck" - "I know who I am." - helps guide me through this sticky wicket:



I'm a happily married woman,
with a love of women,
and a desire to act on that love.

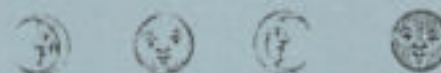
My husband understands. But, then again, so do I. I am not alone in that candy store. Its contents aren't all mine. And I must choose carefully.

What would any man say when he discovers that his rival is not a man, as he presumed, **but a woman?**

Could loving a woman ease the dissatisfaction I feel... this gnawing, growing need for emotional/physical connection that a man just doesn't satisfy?

Could I take the good from both and love them equally?

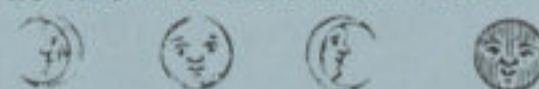
Dare I?



Time has a way of slipping past you...

Now I find myself here, at a bisexual retreat. I wanted to go. My husband didn't. I remember the slightly surprised look on his face when I told him the form had been mailed. No protestations, because he knew it was a fait accompli.

In fact, he knew it more than I did.



A bisexual retreat Saturday night dance is like no other.

The Great Hall has loads of window's, but hardly any ventilation. Yet the incredible heat wave of the Summer of 1988 wasn't needed to heat up this climate...

It wasn't long before the dancers became hot and sweaty. one-by-one, they discarded their shirts, skirts,pants... Panting women and men girating to music in various stages of undress.

What a sight!



"Women's breasts swing, like a pendulum do!" Would Roger Miller write these lyrics to his song? I never saw so many breasts bobbin' to the beat.

continued on page 6

Casual is definitely the style, but I like lacy lingerie. So I compromised. Cotton lace topped my camisole and bottomed my bikini. All black. A jeans mini skirt, worn with black lack stockings, sans garters, completed the look.

I left my mini behind!



My dance partner echoed my sentiments and tossed her blouse to the imaginary wind.

We danced, drenched, until I thought I'd drop. After missing the last dance for some needed water, we put on our clothes and went outside.

The picnic table near the farmhouse was perfect. Secluded, with hints of porch light.

Her name was Giselle. Talking to her came easy. We traded life stories and frustrations and accomplishments and joys with abandon.

We talked well into the night. She lay down on the table and motioned me to follow. I did.

Our bodies touched lengthwise, in a friendly fashion. Conversation drifted in and out of sexy tales. Still, neither of us made the first move.

Somehow, I remember we both sat up. Giselle started first. "Maybe I'm mistaken, but there's been a lot of flirting going back and forth, right?"

I nodded yes. "But, I thought you made it clear that you didn't want to... At least, that's what it sounded like."

"Well..."

"We're both afraid of offending each other. Guess that's what happens when women get together." We both laughed. "Well, I do want to give you a hug."

For me, that was a radical move.

I hiked up my mini and swung both lacy legs around Giselle. Gingerly, she kissed my shoulder. Lightly I bussed hers.

"I want you," Giselle whispered.

That's all I had to hear.

We hugged tighter, nudging our torsos for a good 'fit.' It felt so good! Off came the eyeglasses!



No tentative movements now. Our passions became clear. Immediate. Mouths kissing shoulders kissing mouths kissing throats kissing...

Giselle and I stopped only to remove our tops. Her breasts perfectly shaped, hung like orbs from a Christmas tree. elated, I cupped each one individually, then together.



I alighted on her right nipple. So much bigger than my husband's. Her areola swelled with pride as I sucked.

And it was good.

My hands gently stayed with Giselle's bosom as we talked and giggled and kissed. I buried my face between her cleavage and cuddled.

Uncontrollable smiles and sighs of satisfaction accompanied those nuzzling appreciations.

We made love atop that picnic table. Fingers snuck in and out of panties frantically, making the best out of stretch cotton.

What beauty rubbing her. Exploring the soft folds hidden between her legs. Feeling the silky wetness inside.

Brava! Brava! More! More!

I had to have Giselle again. only this time, I concentrated on her, and her alone.

What a kick to watch Giselle writhe with rapture!

I kissed her on the mouth with delight, knowing how I pleased her, pleased me.

Giselle entered me with deft fingers. she rocked me until exhaustion. "How many was that? Two big ones or three smaller ones?" she asked me.

"Two big ones I think."

I do remember becoming flat-backed on the picnic table, howling with ecstasy, black lacy legs in mid air. I also remember Giselle pointing out the people returning to the farmhouse. They got some free show.

It was 5am before we said goodnight. Exchanging addresses and last minute kisses in the farmhouse gave this erotic, exotic, ever-lovin' evening its Grande Finale.

It was **anything** but banal.



POETRY

CYCLES

I would like to drift into sleep
nuzzled into the soft fuzz
of a gentle man's chest
or cradled in an arm's crook
cushioned by a tender woman's breast

I would like to slumber
back to back spine to spine
back to front side by side
or
in a jumble limbs entwined

I would like to waken
to the salt-scent of musky skin
the even sound of breathing
the steady beat of another's heart
the day's first remembrances
of night's intimate, fading consciousness

-- Mary Bell

Reprinted with permission from North Bi Northwest,
Volume 1, Number 5.





by Z (a BBMN member)

Just in case we weren't quite sure before, George Bush's success this election year is providing us with ample evidence that this country is becoming increasingly tolerant of intolerance.

Last year, Newsweek introduced the country to the concept of bisexuality - by presenting a picture of a menace to "normal" society, spreading AIDS from (sick or wicked) gay men to (innocent, vulnerable) straight women.

Now comes a new network television series, a "drama" called *Midnight Caller*. Its hero is a combination of TV-fiction's favorite role model and a popular role model from real life: an ex-cop turned radio talk-show host.

An episode currently scheduled to air December 10 focuses on a bisexual man who contracts AIDS from his gay lover, and proceeds to deliberately spread the infection to his new sex partners. The full horror of his crime is only felt when one of his victims turns out to be not only a woman, but pregnant as well.

In the story's cathartic climax, this appropriately hysterical female hunts down the villain, and shoots him dead. We are left with the image of a contaminated body bag being carried off by eerie-looking figures covered head-to-toe in protective clothing.

As we might expect from this synopsis, the script is riddled with many other outrageous stereotypes and myths about AIDS. No distinction is made between positive HIV antibody status and the disease itself. It is assumed that a single sex act with an infected partner automatically means transmission of the virus, which in turn means certain death. At some point in the show, a case is made for mandatory testing.

Then there are the characters. Gay men are walking cadavers. Bi men are lone sociopaths. Adult women are brainless beauties. And no one in San Francisco in 1988 has the sense to practice safe sex.

Do we have to put up with this sort of sexist, hate-mongering horseshit? We do, as long as we do nothing to try and stop it.

In San Francisco, where the series takes place and is being filmed, members of ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) have been attempting to put pressure on the producers - Lorimar Productions - to change their script, or (better yet) scrap the story entirely. Their tactics have included both polite negotiations, and direct action to disrupt the filming.

Lorimar's response has included both promises to improve the script and legal action against the people they've been making promises to. Small wonder, then, that ACT-UP is disinclined to believe the promises.

(Lorimar, by the way, was the company that produced the virulently homophobic film *Cruising*, back about nine years ago. They've also purchased the film rights to Randy Shilts's history of the AIDS epidemic, *And the Band Played On*. One shudders to think what they plan to do with that one...)

continued on page 9



QUESTION -

Here's an ethical dilemma. I am newly involved in a relationship with a man. My last lover, for five years, was a woman. Although she met my family on several occasions, I never explicitly introduced her as my lover, fearing family anger and upset. Now I am strongly tempted to bring my new friend home for a family get-together in a couple of months, but know that my family will assume (even if I don't tell them) that we're lovers, and I feel uncomfortable taking heterosexual privilege by doing with him what I chose not to do with my ex-lover.

RESPONSE -

Remember the lapel pin that said "How dare you presume I'm heterosexual"? Are you 'taking privilege' whenever you are the object of heterosexist assumptions? Is it unethical to decide **not** to come out, when one has made the evaluation that to do so would be destructive? What feels to you like **guilt** for being more comfortable with the "camouflage" of a male lover may really be the **stress (sadness, frustration, distance)** of not being able to come out to your family, period. Coming out now would pose the same problem as when you were in a relationship with a woman; being with a man hasn't made your fears (or your family's attitudes) go away. You might decide **not** to confirm your family's assumptions about your present lover, thereby remaining consistent in your tactics. You also might feel a little less stressed if your lover, at least, were aware you are bisexual -- have you been able to come out to him? If he is understanding, then he can share privately in the irony of your family's behavior when you visit.



Quote of the month:

Fortune Cookie of the month:

TELL ME WHAT YOU EAT AND I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU ARE.

- Fortune received by BBWN member. Same member has been heard to say, "All food is sex food."



MERYL L. WOLPER, LICSW

FEMINIST PSYCHOTHERAPY WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR

Lesbian, Bisexual, Heterosexual

617-332-7091

Sliding Scale

Ins. Accepted



Unsafe Lesbian Sex

Unprotected cunnilingus (especially during menstruation since menstrual blood is currently considered to be the same as any other type of blood), any type of blood exchange, unprotected oral/anal contact, unprotected hand/vagina or hand/anal contact, urine or feces in the mouth or vagina, and sharing sex toys that have come in contact with body fluids.

SAFE SEX GUIDELINES FOR BISEXUAL AND HETEROSEXUAL WOMEN

According to the most recent figures from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, about 70% of the 43,000 people in the U.S. who have gotten AIDS got the disease from having sex with an infected partner. More than 60% were gay men, the rest were heterosexual men and women. For women the second most common way AIDS is acquired is through heterosexual contact with a person at risk for AIDS; the first is through IV drug use.

Bisexual and Heterosexual Women at High Risk for AIDS

- Women who share needles or any other paraphernalia (spoons, works syringes) when using IV drugs.
- Women who have had sexual contact with:
 - men who have been actively gay or bisexual since 1979
 - people of either sex whose sexual histories are unknown
 - people who use IV drugs
 - people who are hemophiliac, or who have received blood transfusions between 1979 and 1985

- Women who have received blood transfusions or blood products between 1979 and 1985

Bisexual and Heterosexual Women at Low Risk for AIDS

- Women who have been mutually monogamous with a partner since 1979
- Women who have been celibate and have received no blood transfusions or blood products since 1979
- Women whose sexual partners have not been at risk since 1979



General Guidelines: AIDS experts are advising women who believe that they run the risk of either contracting or transmitting the disease to follow safe sex guidelines. For safer sex, avoid sexual activity that involves contact with body fluids. The virus is transmitted through direct contact with infected blood, semen, urine, feces, and possibly vaginal secretions.

Safe Bisexual and Heterosexual Sex

Massage, hugging, body-to-body rubbing, social (dry) kissing, voyeurism, mutual masturbation (each partner touching her own genitals), sex toys which are protected with condoms or cleaned and dried thoroughly between each partner's use, S/M activities that do not involve exchanging body fluids, and virtually any other activity that does not require sharing or contact with body fluids.

Low Risk Bisexual/Heterosexual Sex (if both partners are low risk for AIDS (If you or your partner are high risk, test positive on the AIDS Antibody Test, or have AIDS or ARC, see additional information regarding sexual activities)



French (wet) kissing, vaginal or anal intercourse with a latex condom, cunnilingus or fellatio/blow jobs with a latex barrier, genital or anal contact with hands or fingers (including fisting) while wearing latex gloves or finger cots, and external water sports.

Unsafe Bisexual/Heterosexual Sex

Unprotected cunnilingus/oral sex (especially during menstruation since menstrual blood is currently considered to be the same as any other type of blood), unprotected oral anal contact, unprotected hand-vagina or hand/anal contact, (including unprotected fisting), semen, urine or feces in the mouth or vagina (unprotected vaginal or anal intercourse, fellatio/blow jobs), sharing sex toys that come in contact with body fluids.

For more information call:

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services (415) 641-0220
S.F. AIDS Foundation Hotline (415) 863-AIDS

** Thanks to the Women's AIDS Network, Coyote, Project AWARE, The Lesbian Insemination Project, and On Our Backs.

Reprinted with permission, North Bi Northwest, Issue #2 April/May and Issue #3 June/July.

Reprinted with permission of the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services.

If you wish to purchase the safe sex kits send \$4 (each kit) plus \$1.50(postage) to BBWN, PO Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140.

Or contact the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, 2480 Mission St., #214, San Francisco, CA 94110. 415-641-0220. Through LMWHS the kits are \$3.00 ea. + \$2 (postage) Bulk orders of 50 or more \$2.75 ea. + postage. The guidelines are also available in Spanish.

Please allow 4-6 weeks order time.



Meanwhile, in New York, a coalition including members of ACT-UP/NY, NY GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation), the New York Area Bisexual Network, and Gay Men's Health Crisis is trying to negotiate with Lorimar's overseer, NBC. As of this writing they are cautiously optimistic that some positive changes will be made - in particular that the murder scene may be eliminated.

But the basic premise of the story is unlikely to change, and the final result is almost certain to remain seriously offensive, no matter how many details they manage to clean up.

Which brings us back to Boston.

Once the upshot of the New York negotiations is made known, members of BiCEP (the Bisexual Committee Engaging in Politics) are prepared to organize a response at the local level - if possible, in conjunction with similar efforts by political action groups in other cities.

ACT-UP/SF, fed up with their treatment by Lorimar, is already calling for demonstrations at local NBC affiliates around the country, with a threat to boycott the series' sponsors. But there's a significant danger of a "Last-Temptation-of-Christ effect" if we call public attention to the show before it's aired.

A more likely first step would be to contact people at Channel 4, in an effort to encourage them either not to air the show locally (highly unlikely, and morally questionable) or to provide some sort of "rebuttal" time immediately following the show - perhaps in the form of a public service announcement explaining how people can learn the truth about AIDS and safe sexual practices.

This could involve both face-to-face negotiations and a phone-call/letter-writing campaign. If they don't take action to our satisfaction, a demonstration immediately after the show could allow us to publicize our concerns without advertising their program.

But none of this can work unless you get involved!

BiCEP is fewer than two dozen people acting on behalf of the Women's and Men's Networks and the larger Boston bisexual community. A protest of the sort envisioned here will require many dozens of letters and phone calls to be successful. If a demonstration is actually called for, we will need to have as many of us as possible show up in front of the TV station.

So, PLEASE, let us hear from you! Call us as soon as you get this newsletter (Lucy at 617-734-9348) and tell us what you're prepared to do: write a letter, make a phone call, show up at a demo, or just help spread the word. If you can't participate this time around, there's sure to be another time when your help will be needed.

This is not the first time our community has been threatened like this: and considering the current political climate, we can hardly expect it to be the last.

We are going to have to get in the habit of responding forcefully, and in large numbers, when we are attacked. Otherwise the forces of intolerance and repression can only become bolder and stronger. This may be a grim election year, but the struggle for our rights and dignity didn't end on November 8, it began anew.

Dear BiWomen,

First, a big THANK YOU to all the wonderful women who made me feel so welcome at the August retreat, especially Ilene, Cathy, Laura and Lynne. I was nervous and skeptical at first, but so many people were so welcoming, accepting and supportive that I quickly got comfortable and let myself relax. By the end of the retreat, I knew I'd made some major life changes as well as some new good friends.

The love and support I felt that weekend didn't end when the retreat did, either. I don't know how hard it would have been to accept my bi self in a straight - or gay - world without the network, but I'm glad I didn't have to find out!

We ([redacted] and I) recently had the opportunity to host some ECBN visitors when the AIDS names quilt was in D.C. That was a lot of fun (if a bit crowded). D.C. has no women-friendly bi support group or organization, and although we started one, the response has been minimal so far. So we are encouraging prospective D.C. area visitors to contact us if they get the chance. Bi friends come rare and they're highly valued in these parts!

Looking to hear from you soon!

Sincerely,



Write:

Washington Area Bi Support Group

8484 Annapolis Rd. #102
New Carrollton, MD 20784

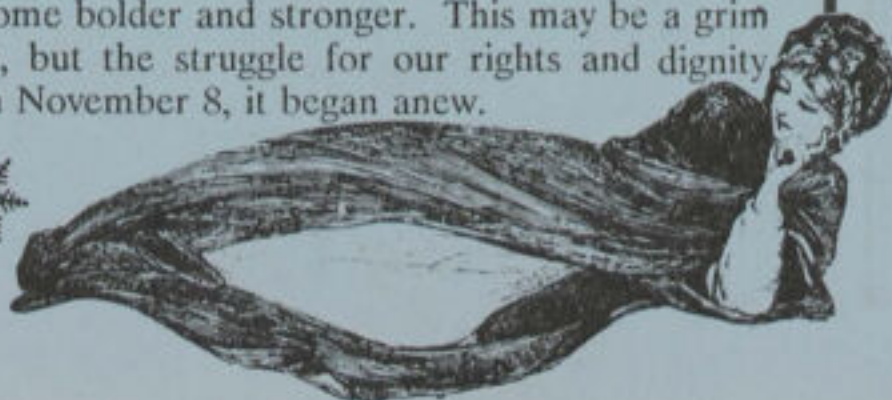
10/31/88



To Whom It Concerns -

I was recently at a meeting of bisexual women in the St. Louis area (there were four of us at the meeting!) when I found out about your organization. I'm writing to obtain more information about BBWN and hopefully to get lots of back issues of your newsletter if possible. I'd like the information for myself, personally, but I also need it as soon as possible for a paper I'm writing on bisexual women in the women's movement(s) for a Lesbian Feminist Philosophy Class. Is your organization feminist in orientation, does it have any philosophical stance? I'm interested in lesbian-bisexual relations within "the movement," but more generally the importance of sexuality in feminism. Any literature you can send me will be greatly appreciated. I'm a student, so I can't make a big contribution, but I am sending ten dollars to at least pay for the cost of sending the materials to me. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Kirsten
St. Louis, MO



cont. on page 11

10 FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Culture, Community & Coalition Building: The Fifth Annual East Coast Bisexual Network Conference, May 5-7, 1989.

The ECBN 1989 Conference Committee announces a call for workshop suggestions and facilitators for our May '89 Conference. Please submit a 1 or 2 paragraph description of your suggested workshop topic and a possible facilitator for same, to: S. Berger, P.O. Box 1034, Allston, MA 02134, by Jan 5, 1989.

We need people do outreach and publicity in your areas, as well as general help on the Conference. Please call (617) 247-6683 if you wish to offer any assistance on the Conference, or have any questions. Watch upcoming issues of *BI WOMEN* for more info.

THE THIRD ANNUAL BBWN DANCE PARTY/AUCTION FUN(D)-RAISER will take place as an integral part of the 5th Annual ECBN Conference May 5-7, 1989 (see blurb pg. 10). The Fun(d)raiser is a benefit for BBWN, however, if men from BBMN want to co-produce the event, the money raised will be proportionally split. We need volunteers (separate from the conference committee) to help with: Food, decorations, desk personnel, volunteer coordinator, etc., If you're interested please call BIS-MOVE (247-6683) and leave a message for Robyn or Laura.

The Bay Area Bisexual Network is conducting a comparative study of women who have identified as Lesbian for five years or more but are now either identified as Bisexual, heterosexual, unsure and/or dating men.

The goal of the study is to determine the impact of the following factors on women's sexual identity and behavior: various aspects of female oppression, internalized sexism, internalized homophobia, gay oppression, social isolation, economics, political climate and other societal pressures.

To qualify for the study one must have been identified as a Lesbian for a least five years and has since experienced an identity change. To obtain the questionnaire and return envelope call (415) 695-7821 or write to Study, 1032 Irving St., Box 443, San Fran., Ca., 94122. The study is confidential.

TELEPHONE (617) 498-9923

BET MACARTHUR, ACSW LICSW
COUNSELING, PSYCHOTHERAPY
CONSULTATION & TRAINING

14 PLEASANT ST.
CENTRAL SQUARE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139



Thomas Geller is compiling a book entitled: The Whole Bisexual Almanac, similar in style to Our Bodies, Ourselves or The Old Farmer's Almanac. The purpose is to produce a book written from the view of bisexual people rather than that of doctors and scientists. He is considering all types of literature i.e. personal pieces as well as those with a more academic bent. He hopes the book will reflect a diverse cross section of the community. With groups such as cross dressers, androgynes, and asexuals represented.

Send: Medium-length description of your organization, including what you do, frequency of meetings, number of attendees and a brief history. Send along your name, address and phone number. If you know of any other Bisexual interest groups, publications or related institutions please these.

Deadline for submissions are: December 1, 1988, (however materials may be sent beyond this date) To: T. Geller, PO Box 20092, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45220. (513) 381- 4791.



NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY:

On Oct. 11th, National Coming Out Day, Bisexual Citizens Engaged In Politics (BICEP) sponsored a visibility action at which approximately 25-30 bisexual women and men participated.

The purpose of the action was to be visible in both the straight and gay communities and for us to be accepted for who we are.

We began the action by wearing a variety of Bisexual Pride T-shirts and buttons and gathering under the Brooks Pharmacy Clock tower in Coolidge Corner (Brookline), and by walking around the area and passing out "Bisexual Pride Information Cards". We then went to eat at a local restaurant which was highly known for its straight clientele. Following dinner, members of the group proceeded to the 1270 Club for a night of dancing and fun with the bisexual and gay community.

The group had a wonderful time and we hope we educated a few people who received our cards and/or read our buttons and T-shirts.

Reprinted with permissions from BBMN News, November 1988 issue.

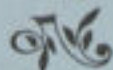
(Editors note: The best part of the experience for me was when a woman who had been handed one of the info cards stopped, read it, and handed it back saying, "Thanks, but I already am bisexual." —Laura)



11/16/88

Dear BBWN,

I wrote this piece last spring, but never mailed it to you!



May, 1988



I suspect that there are many avid readers of *Bi Women* out there who live in the Boston vicinity, but have never attended a BBWN meeting or event. As a person who's been getting the newsletter for a year, but only went to my first meeting (other than the intro meeting) recently, I speak from personal experience.



What kept me from getting involved with my network? First of all, I didn't believe it was mine. I imagined a cliquish group of women who all knew each other, to whom I would be a newcomer, an outsider. I didn't want to have to prove anything to get with the in-crowd. I did not want to be pressured into making a lot of commitments to work for the network. And, I was worried there would be tensions caused by a singles scene.

On the other hand, I needed to be involved with a women's group. As a bisexual, I've had difficulties in the past trying to be a part of lesbian groups. BBWN seemed ideal, and *Bi Women* encouraging. That, and a twinge of guilt about enjoying a newsletter I didn't help do the work for, got me to my first volunteer night.

What did I find? At Robyn's house I found a pretty large group of friendly, welcoming women. Several of us were new. Even among the old active members, not everyone knew each other. People worked on smallish tasks, or didn't. I answered some correspondence. Someone ordered a pizza. There was no sexual tension, no pressure to take on work, no proof of political-correctness requested or required. I left feeling glad that I had finally gone.

So, if you've been hesitating to come to a meeting because of fears or concerns like mine, I encourage you to come anyway: my fears were unfounded. I already feel comfortable at, and enjoy BBWN meetings. I'm looking forward to getting to know some new people. And if I'm still hesitant to take on a lot of work or responsibility, I'm finding that my small contributions, like just attending a meeting, are both useful and appreciated.

- Heidi Friedman



HELP WANTED



HELP WANTED



HELP WANTED



WANTED: BBWN MAILWOMEN:



Want to know the gossip before everyone else? We need a few women to share the job of distributing BBWN'S incoming mail. Approx. 4-6 hours/month. The PO Box is located on Mass. Ave., Porter Square, North Cambridge. Box hours M-F 7-5:30pm, Sat. 8-1pm (Reg. PO hrs., M-F 8-5:30, Sat. 9-1). The PO is T accesible. If you're interested please call 625-3742 and ask for Ann, discretion unnecessary.

WANTED: INTRO MEETING FACILITATORS:



As it says in the CC meeting minutes we are going back to rotating Co-facilitators for BBWN's Introductory Meetings. Yeah! Rah! If you're interested in Co-facilitating Please call 247-6683 and leave a message for Stephanie.



WANTED: TWO MERCHANDISING MAVENS:

Launch your retail career! We need two women to handle Bisexual Pride T-Shirts & Buttons, and Biphobia Shield and Safe Sex Bi all Means buttons for BBWN! If you're interested please call BIS-MOVE (247-6683) and leave a mesage for Laura.



Dec. 5 (Mon) BBWN Intro Meeting, 7:30pm, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St, Central Square. Come find out about BBWN, theories of Bisexuality and meet intriguing women. All women welcome. Call 247-6683 for more info.

Dec. 9 (Fri) Bisexual Jewish Groups Annual Channukah Party!!!, 7:30pm Call BIS-MOVE for direction. (Hint: It's being held at one of my favorite Jewish Bisexual's house - S.)



Dec. 9 (Fri) A night of Gay Contra Dancing in Providence, Rhode Island, at Body Lab, 568 S. Main St, 8pm - 11pm, Admission \$5. Call Chris (401) 431-0822 for more info.

Dec 9 (Fri) Pat Humphries, plays at Second Friday Coffee House, 8pm, at the UU First at 404 Concord Ave., Belmont. Benefit for EMERGE. Barbara Baid opens. There will be a expected donation at the door.



Dec 10 (Sat) East Coast Bisexual Network (ECBN) Conference Planning Mtg. 5-7pm, Boylston Hall, Harvard Yard, Room 2B. All Welcome.

Dec 13 (Tues) BiCEP mtg. 7:30 pm, Boylston Hall, Harvard Yard, Room will be posted. The Bisexual Committee Engaging in Politics (BiCEP) works to increase Bi visibility in the straight and gay Communities, and works in the struggle for Bi & Gay Liberation.



Dec 15 (Thurs) Gay & Lesbian Speakers Bureau Mtg. 7pm. Discussion topic: *GENDER IDENTITY: Masculine/ Feminine Stereotypes, Transsexuals Transvestites, Homosexuals: What Does it Mean to be a Lover of Men; A Lover of Women?* At Phil Harper's House, 46 Carolina Ave., Jamaica Plains, call 522-0676 for directions.

Dec 17 (Sat) BBWN/BBMN Monthly Dim Sum Brunch. Come join us for good food and yummy company. Meet under the arch in Chinatown @ 10:45, average cost \$6-8. Both women and men welcome. Call BIS-MOVE if you have any questions.



Dec 17 (Sat) A festive evening of Gay Contra Dancing in Boston, with a live Band, 8-11pm at the Unitarian Universalist First Church of Jamaica Plains, at the corner of Center and Eliot St. Admission is \$5. Call Barbara at (617) 625-9166 for more info.

Dec 19 (Mon) BBWN Volunteer Night, it's gonna be a non-newsletter yenta event. 7:30pm at Robyn's house. So dawling call BIS-MOVE for directions.

Dec 19 (Mon) Feb/March Newsletter Deadline.



Dec 25 (Sun) Christmas.

Jan 1 (Sun) Hippo New Year Two Ewes!



Jan 5 (Thurs) Deadline for Submission of workshop topics for ECBN Conference.

Jan 6 (Fri) A night of Gay Contra Dancing in Providence, RI. See Dec 9th for details.

Jan 7 (Sat) An of Gay Contra Dancing in Boston. See Dec. 17th for details.



Jan. 8 (Sun) LAURA BERKSON, singer/songwriter, plays at the Celebration Coffeehouse, E. Boston, 8:00pm

Jan 9 (Mon) BBWN Coordinating Committee Mtg. 7pm in Boylston Hall, Room 2B, Harvard Yard. We'll be electing two NABN representatives. If you're interested in the position, be prepared to speak, and everyone attending should be prepared to make a decision.

Jan 13 (Fri) Jewish Bi Group Shabbat Dairy/Veggie Potluck Dinner, 7:30pm. Call BIS-MOVE for location and directions.

Jan. 19 (Thur) GAY & LESBIAN SPEAKERS BUREAU, Election Meeting. 35 Rodman St., Jamaica Plain, Contact Leah, 524-6826, Topic: Humor in G&L Speaking Engagements.



Jan 20 (Fri) A night of Gay Contra Dancing in Providence, RI. See Dec. 9th for details.

Jan 21 (Sat) BBWN/BBMN Monthly Dim Sum Brunch. See Dec 17th for details.

Jan 21 (Sat) An evening of Gay Contra Dancing in Boston. See Dec 17th for details.

Jan 30 (Mon) Volunteer Night, 7pm, Come help stuff the Feb/March newsletter with happen'inist Bi women an the East Coast, at Robyn's. Call BIS-MOVE for directions.

Feb 6 (Mon) BBWN Intro Mtg. See Dec 5th for details.

